

SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Craig Tribal Association Hall
Craig, Alaska
March 14, 2017
1:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Bangs, Chair
Michael Douville
Donald Hernandez
Albert Howard
Cathy Needham, Acting Chair
Patricia Phillips
Steve Reifenstuhel
Robert Schroeder
Frank Wright
John Yeager

Regional Council Coordinator, DeAnna Perry

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Craig, Alaska - 3/14/2017)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Good afternoon.
My name is Cathy Needham. I'm the Vice Chair of the
Regional Advisory Council to the Federal Subsistence
Board for the Southeast Region. At this time I'd like
to call on Harvey Kitka to give us an invocation.

(Invocation)

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
Kitka. I'd like to call this meeting to order.
Welcome everyone to Craig, Alaska for the Regional
Advisory Council meeting to the Federal Subsistence
Board for the Southeast Region.

Right off the bat I would like to ask
for your patience as we move through the next couple of
days of work. We're still trying to get Council
Members to Craig that have been delayed due to weather
concerns.

I'd like to do a roll call at this
point in time. We're going to change the agenda a
little bit in the beginning to determine if we can
establish a quorum to get our agenda into play and then
we'll do our welcomes that we normally do at the
beginning of the meeting.

So at this time, Mr. Kitka, can you do
roll call.

MR. KITKA: Steve Reifenstuhel.

MR. REIFENSTUHL: Here.

MR. KITKA: Frank Wright, Jr.

MR. WRIGHT: Here.

MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.

MS. PHILLIPS: I'm online.

MR. KITKA: Michael Douville.

1 MR. DOUVILLE: Here.
2
3 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka is here.
4 Robert Schroeder.
5
6 MR. SCHROEDER: Here.
7
8 MR. KITKA: Albert Howard.
9
10 (No response)
11
12 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
13
14 (No response)
15
16 MR. KITKA: Kenneth Jackson.
17
18 (No response)
19
20 MR. KITKA: Raymond Sensmeier.
21
22 (No response)
23
24 MR. KITKA: John Yeager.
25
26 MR. YEAGER: Online.
27
28 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
29
30 MR. BANGS: Here in ketchikan wishing I
31 was there.
32
33 MR. KITKA: Cathy Needham.
34
35 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Here.
36
37 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, we've got a
38 quorum.
39
40 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great. It's so
41 good to hear from you guys that are on the line, Frank,
42 Patty, John and Mike. Thank you for phoning in so that
43 we could have a quorum. I'm sorry for those that -- I
44 know John and Mike are still potentially going to be
45 traveling over at the very least on the ferry tonight.
46 Unfortunately Patty and Frank and Albert were not able
47 to make it out of their communities to be with us, but
48 hopefully they can help participate with our
49 proceedings this week by telephone.
50

1
2 Mr. Sensmeier and Mr. Jackson are
3 excused from the proceedings for other obligations for
4 this meeting.

5
6 Before we do our welcome and
7 introductions for the local community, since we have a
8 quorum at this point and we're not sure how long we'll
9 be able to maintain everybody online, we'd like to try
10 to get our meeting agenda into play. So at this time I
11 would entertain a motion for the agenda.

12
13 Mr. Douville.

14
15
16 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair, I move to
17 adopt the agenda as a guide.

18
19 MR. REIFENSTUHL: Second.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
22 Douville and Mr. Reifenstuhl. It's been moved and
23 seconded to adopt the agenda as a guideline. Do we
24 have any changes or discussion that need to be
25 discussed at this time.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: We have some
30 suggested things to consider, possible changes to the
31 agenda that have been brought forth that are from
32 people attending that we know will be time sensitive
33 matters. Would you guys like to go through those and
34 discuss them or do you want to just continue to go as a
35 guideline.

36
37 I guess I'm afraid that if we try to
38 adopt all of these, weather is going to still have a
39 lot of play in what we do over the next couple of days
40 and maybe we should go through and just kind of use our
41 agenda as a guide like we just said and not have
42 anything specifically moved around, but move things for
43 time sensitive things.

44
45 MR. WRIGHT: Use it as a guide. This
46 is Frank.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Can you repeat
49 yourself.

1 MR. WRIGHT: Hi, this is Frank. Just
2 use it as a guide and move things around when you need
3 to.

4
5 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. Thank you,
6 Frank.

7
8 Mr. Douville.

9
10 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you. Just a
11 question about public testimony. I know there is some.
12 Is there a specific time that's better than others that
13 anybody can think of or are we going to take them as we
14 have an opportunity?

15
16 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. I think
17 usually we try to offer the opportunity each morning at
18 the meeting, but I also think that there is specific
19 testimony associated with agenda items we can
20 coordinate those as the blue slips come in.

21
22 Are there anymore comments or
23 discussion regarding the agenda.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27
28 MR. DOUVILLE: Call for the question.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. The
31 question has been called. The motion is to adopt the
32 agenda as a guide. I think we have to do a roll call
33 vote because we have members online. So Mr. Kitka can
34 you please conduct that roll call vote.

35
36 MR. KITKA: Steve Reifenstuhel.

37
38 MR. REIFENSTUHL: Yes.

39
40 MR. KITKA: Frank Wright, Jr.

41
42 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

43
44 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.

45
46 MR. PHILLIPS: Aye.

47
48 MR. KITKA: Mike Douville.

49
50

1 MR. DOUVILLE: Aye.

2
3 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka, yes. Robert
4 Schroeder.

5
6 MR. SCHROEDER: Aye.

7
8 MR. KITKA: John Yeager.

9
10 MR. YEAGER: Yes.

11
12 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.

13
14 MR. BANGS: Aye.

15
16 MR. KITKA: Cathy Needham.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Aye.

19
20 MR. KITKA: So moved.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
23 Kitka. And thank you everyone online for bearing with
24 us on that change in how we normally kick off our
25 meetings.

26
27 Again I'd like to welcome everyone. I
28 have heard a number of pings on the telephone, so some
29 people are calling in. Just to let you know we'll get
30 to introductions in a moment, but first I'd like to go
31 through some of the welcoming comments from guests that
32 have been invited here to present those to us.

33
34 At this time I'd like to call the
35 tribal president for the Craig Tribal Association, Mr.
36 Clinton Cook, up to the table to give his welcoming
37 remarks. When you come before the Council, just an
38 introduction and make sure you turn on the microphone.

39
40 MR. COOK: Thank you, Cathy. First of
41 all I'd like to welcome everybody to Craig. It's kind
42 of odd to be facing them and not facing everybody.
43 This is the first time we've had a meeting in Craig.
44 You are now on Indian land. This year Craig Tribe put
45 our land into trust. We're the first tribe in Alaska
46 to be able to accomplish that. So welcome to Indian
47 country in Alaska.

48
49 On behalf of the Craig Tribe welcome to
50

1 Craig again. It's an honor to have the Federal
2 Subsistence Board meet in Craig finally. You guys
3 haven't been here in a long time. Lots of issue on the
4 table. We'd like to welcome each member of the
5 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the members and
6 staff of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the
7 U.S. Forest Service and those public members who are
8 here to participate in these meetings.

9
10 The Craig Tribe applauds the Federal
11 government who had the responsibility under ANILCA to
12 provide rural residents with the priority for
13 subsistence use. While we applaud the Federal
14 government, we also remind that under Executive Order
15 13175 each Federal agency has a responsibility to
16 provide tribes with an opportunity under tribal
17 consultation and coordination with Indian tribal
18 governments when considering policies that will impact
19 every tribal community.

20
21 Under that Executive Order tribes are
22 inundated with notices from Federal agencies for tribal
23 consultation on every agency agenda. There are some
24 agencies that the Craig Tribe will request specific
25 tribal consultation from, especially if the policy will
26 impact our tribal community.

27
28 In our public comment regarding action
29 on wolves in Unit 2 the Craig Tribe specifically
30 requested meaningful consultation on any action with
31 respect to the issue on wolves on Prince of Wales
32 Island. Recently the Alaska Department of Fish and
33 Game and U.S. Forest Service took action in reducing
34 the harvest quota of wolves without seeking public
35 participation or involvement from tribes on Prince of
36 Wales Island.

37
38 The Craig Tribe filed an objection over
39 this action. Although we have since withdrawn the
40 objection of the specific wolf quota, we have not
41 withdrawn our objection over the lack of consultation
42 or public involvement in these decisions.

43
44 Under the Federal Subsistence
45 Management Program, rural residents have priority on
46 Federal lands. This was established in ANILCA. Our
47 tribe is concerned with the decline of our deer
48 population in Unit 2. Without public input and tribal
49 consultation where we can sit down and discuss the
50

1 concerns, policies may be made to conserve wildlife
2 that may directly impact tribal members on our island.

3
4 This island is very unique. We have
5 four Federally recognized tribes, we have concerns, we
6 have credible people. Public involvement is the
7 cornerstone of the Federal Subsistence Management
8 Program. We ask that the public involvement to our
9 area be meaningful by seeking out leaders, hunters,
10 gatherers, public members with knowledge of fish and
11 wildlife specific to our area. By working together we
12 can develop appropriate policies and proposals to
13 regulate that impact to rural residents of this
14 community.

15
16 Thank you for your time today and
17 allowing me to speak. The Craig Tribe would like to
18 provide conservation to our fish and wildlife in our
19 area. Each decision we look forward to collaboration
20 with the Federal Subsistence Board with respect to the
21 areas that we harvest in.

22
23 Once again welcome to Craig.

24
25 Thank you for your time and we look
26 forward to meaningful consultation out of these
27 meetings.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Next
32 for welcoming comments we have Mr. Matt Anderson with
33 the U.S. Forest Service.

34
35 MR. ANDERSON: Welcome to Prince of
36 Wales. I'm Matt Anderson. Normally I'm a district
37 ranger here on Prince of Wales. I've been over in
38 Ketchikan as the Deputy Forest Supervisor for a couple
39 months. So it's good to be back on Prince of Wales and
40 I'll resume my ranger duties here in a couple weeks
41 again.

42
43 Thanks for coming to Prince of Wales.
44 Thanks for agreeing to come in March, which is always
45 tricky for weather, but I think it's important that you
46 have these discussions here where a number of folks are
47 affected.

48
49 I've been in this position about four
50

1 and a half years and subsistence was really new to me
2 at the time. It's still fairly new to me and stumble
3 over some of the regulations. Fortunately I've got
4 some really good subsistence staff in the Forest
5 Service to help me and the agency navigate some of
6 these issues.

7
8 The resources here are the lifeblood
9 for everybody on Prince of Wales. Not a responsibility
10 I take lightly, the agency takes lightly. We're
11 blessed here. We've got a number of local folks that
12 have really good knowledge of these resources and we've
13 got some agency folks that spend a lot of their time, a
14 lot of their career working on these resources. We
15 still have a ways to go and how to blend the local
16 knowledge and the regulation and make sure that we're
17 managing the resources to the best benefit for
18 everybody.

19
20 A couple of things that we're doing
21 here. I'll be brief. We started landscape level
22 analysis. The agency started an environmental impact
23 statement looking at fish and wildlife resources,
24 habitat, timber resources, recreation, subsistence.
25 There's a group here on the island that's also working
26 to form recommendations or proposals and give those to
27 the Forest Service to consider.

28
29 Subsistence has been a key part of that
30 discussion since the inception. Deer, wolves, sockeye
31 are probably the three biggest ones. We don't have all
32 the answers for some of the concerns that folks here
33 have, but we're trying to work with the local knowledge
34 to get some better answers.

35
36 There's a lot going on here from a
37 resource management and habitat standpoint and hoping
38 that we can work with subsistence users here and
39 continue to manage the resource.

40
41 Thanks for coming. Earl Stewart, the
42 Forest Supervisor, will be here tomorrow, weather
43 permitting, to talk a little about the Forest Plan.
44 But any questions, anything you need, grab myself or
45 one of the Forest Service staff here and we can help
46 provide you anything you need while you're in Prince of
47 Wales.

48
49 Thanks.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. I
2 just wanted to make a note to those of you that have
3 called in on the phone that we have began our meeting
4 and have adopted the agenda as a guide. However, we do
5 not have all of the Council Members who are actually
6 still in transit to Craig here yet. We'll get to
7 introductions on the phone momentarily, so please hold
8 tight with us.

9
10 At this time I'd like to go around the
11 table for the Council Members that are in the room for
12 an introduction and then we'll ask the Council Members
13 who are still on the line to introduce themselves.
14 Starting with Mr. Douville.

15
16 MR. DOUVILLE: I'm Mike Douville for
17 right here in Craig. I live here, serve on the city
18 council and Craig Tribal Association.

19
20 MR. KITKA: Good afternoon. Harvey
21 Kitka. I'm from Sitka, Alaska. I chair the Sitka
22 Herring Committee in Sitka. I kind of gave up my
23 tribal parts, but I'm still involved with a lot of the
24 things that are happening with Sitka.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Again, my name
29 is Cathy Needham. I reside in Juneau and represent
30 subsistence users. I'm the Vice Chair for the Council
31 and anxiously waiting for our Council Member to travel
32 from Ketchikan to here.

33
34 MR. SCHROEDER: Bob Schroeder. I'm a
35 Juneau resident.

36
37 MR. REIFENSTUHL: Steve Reifenstuhl,
38 Sitka, Alaska. I'm general manager of Northern
39 Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association.

40
41 Thank you very much community of Kake
42 for hosting us.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.
45 Those are the Council Members that are in the room.
46 Can the Council Members who are online please introduce
47 themselves.

48
49 MR. WRIGHT: My name is Frank Wright

50

1 from Hoonah. I'm the president of the Hoonah Indian
2 Association.

3
4 MR. YEAGER: I'm John Yeager from
5 Wrangell.

6
7 MR. BANGS: This is Mike Bangs from
8 Petersburg.

9
10 MS. PHILLIPS: This is Patricia
11 Phillips from Pelican.

12
13 MR. HOWARD: This is Albert Howard from
14 Angoon. Vice president of the local tribe. Council
15 Member from the city of Angoon. I was elected two
16 years on the school board. As subsistence users we
17 spent a lot of time on the water.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great. Thank
20 you. And Albert, welcome. It's good to hear you
21 online. You and Patty and Frank were unable to make it
22 here and we understand that you guys are going to try
23 to be a part of our proceedings as we go through the
24 telephone and we'll make as much accommodations as we
25 can to assure that you are part of our deliberations
26 and there for when we need to do action items for this
27 meeting. But please bear with us as we haven't really
28 done this scenario before, at least I have not as Vice
29 Chair. So thanks for your patient in that.

30
31 Next I'd like to have the Fed staff in
32 the room introduce themselves starting with Justin in
33 the corner.

34
35 MR. KOEHLER: Good afternoon to the
36 Council. My name is Justin Koehler. I'm a subsistence
37 biologist for Sitka and Hoonah Ranger Districts, but I
38 don't consider myself tied to those districts as I work
39 with people all over the Tongass. It's good to be
40 here. I missed the Petersburg meeting. I'm happy to
41 be here today.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MS. OEHLERS: Good afternoon, Madame
46 Chair. Members of the Council. My name is Susan
47 Oehlers. I am a wildlife and subsistence biologist
48 with the Forest Service in Yakutat.

49
50

1 MR. SUMINSKI: Good afternoon,
2 everyone. I'm Terry Suminski. I live in Sitka. I
3 work for the Forest Service as the subsistence program
4 leader for the Tongass National Forest. Good
5 afternoon.
6

7 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: For those of you
8 on the phone if you could please mute your line on your
9 end. We're getting a little bit of feedback in the
10 room and that would be helpful for us. Thank you. I'm
11 told that to mute your phone you can use *6.
12

13 MR. REEVES: Good afternoon, Council.
14 Welcome to Craig. Jeff Reeves, Forest Service,
15 subsistence biologist in Ketchikan area.
16

17 MS. BURKE: Good afternoon, everyone.
18 Melinda Hernandez Burke. I'm the I'm the Tribal
19 Relations Program Manager for the Forest Service. I'm
20 been in my new job for a little over a year now.
21 Gunalcheesh for welcoming me to the meeting.
22 Gunalcheesh to the Craig Tribe for hosting us here on
23 this tribal land and happy to be here and offer my
24 assistance in helping the tribes to participate in this
25 meeting and future meetings. I'm here at your service.
26

27 Gunalcheesh.
28

29 MR. HOWARD: Is anyone there?
30

31 MR. WRIGHT: I'm still here.
32

33 MR. WHITFORD: Good afternoon, Madame
34 Chair. Council Members. My name is Tom Whitford. I'm
35 the Regional Subsistence Program Leader for the Forest
36 Service. I've been in this position for a little over
37 two years now.
38

39 I think this is the first time I've
40 stepped foot in Craig. I came close a couple years ago
41 going around the island. It's nice to be here. It's
42 nice to be on Indian land. Congratulations on making
43 that happen. I think a lot of different villages
44 around Alaska are looking to do the same thing. You
45 guys are breaking new ground, so congratulations with
46 that. I'm glad to be here.
47

48 MS. HARDIN: Good afternoon, everyone.
49 My name is Jennifer Hardin. It's great to see you all
50

1 again. I am the Anthropology Division Chief from the
2 Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any
5 other Federal staff in the room that can introduce
6 themselves, please.

7
8 DR. CHEN: Aloha, Council Members. My
9 name is Glenn Chen. I'm the Subsistence Branch Chief
10 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Always glad to
11 attend your meetings.

12
13 MS. PERRY: Good afternoon, everyone.
14 I'm DeAnna Perry. I'm the new Council Coordinator for
15 the Southeast Advisory Council. Good to see you all
16 here.

17
18 Thank you for coming.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Do we have any
21 Federal staff members on the phone that can introduce
22 themselves?

23
24 MR. SUMMERS: Clarence Summers,
25 National Park Service in Anchorage, Subsistence
26 Manager.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Are
29 there any other Federal staff members on the phone that
30 can introduce themselves.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any
35 State representatives in the room?

36
37 MR. SCHWATKA: I'm Craig Schwatka with
38 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of
39 Sport Fish.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Are
42 there any other State representatives in the room or on
43 the telephone that would like to introduce themselves
44 at this time?

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any
49 tribal representatives in the room besides Mr. Cook
50

1 that would like to introduce themselves?

2

3 MR. GALLEGOS: Good afternoon. I'm
4 Tony Gallegos. I'm with the Ketchikan Indian
5 Community. I'm the Cultural and Natural Resource
6 Director.

7

8 MR. WAGNER: Good afternoon. I'm Louie
9 Wagner, Jr. from Metlakatla Indian Community. I
10 started serving on our council in 2000 and I'm on three
11 committees. I chair one and these are all volunteer.
12 We have to run every two years for our seats, but it's
13 worth the work.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.
18 Before we continue on with introductions I wanted to do
19 a quick check if Mr. Bangs and Mr. Yeager were still
20 online.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I wasn't exactly
25 sure if that was Mr. Bangs or Mr. Yeager. I know Ms.
26 Phillips just sent me a message that she was having to
27 go offline for a moment.

28

29 (Background voice on the phone)

30

31 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: We think we can
32 hear you.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: We're going to
37 continue on with introductions. Mr. Bangs or Mr.
38 Yeager, if one of you can just send me a text when you
39 go offline so that we know where we are in the agenda
40 in terms of being able to do action items that would be
41 helpful.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 Are there other tribal representatives
46 on the line that would like to try to introduce
47 themselves?

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Then
2 I would like to invite other members of the community
3 that are in the room to introduce themselves. So we'll
4 start up front here with -- I'm sorry, you just
5 introduced yourself to me. Mrs. Wagner.

6
7 MS. WAGNER: My name is Cindy Wagner.
8 I've been Mrs. Louie Wagner for 47 years. I live in
9 Metlakatla. I was born and raised in Ketchikan to a
10 fisherman's family. I still fish.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: We'll just work
13 our way around the room, so past Matt, past Clinton.
14 Mr. Kampnich.

15
16 MR. KAMPNICH: Michael Kampnich, Craig
17 resident, Prince of Wales for 37 years. I commercial
18 fished and I worked for the Nature Conservancy. I'm
19 now fishing.

20
21 MR. BOLLING: Good afternoon. My name
22 is Jon Bolling. I'm the City Administrator for the
23 City of Craig. I'm glad you're here. Welcome to the
24 members of the Committee. It's great that you're here
25 to take testimony from island residents on resource
26 issues relative to Federal lands on Prince of Wales
27 Island.

28
29 By the way, the Mayor sends his
30 regards. He's at a meeting in Juneau this week,
31 otherwise I'm sure he'd want to be here himself. So,
32 again, welcome.

33
34 MR. DECKER: Luke Decker, restoration
35 and wildlife biologist for the U.S. Forest Service.
36 Sorry I didn't come forward earlier. I'm on crutches
37 right now.

38
39 Thank you for having me.

40
41 MR. SAKRAIDA: My name is Christopher
42 Sakraida, Forest Service law enforcement here in Craig.

43
44 MR. WINROD: Elijah Winrod. I live in
45 Klawock.

46
47 MR. FARMER: William Farmer. I live in
48 Craig, a local wildlife user.

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great. I think
2 we have everyone in the room. Thank you all for
3 coming. I'd like to ask DeAnna to please go over some
4 housekeeping things for us.

5
6 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 For those that are in the room or who might be coming
8 to visit us tomorrow, I just wanted to let you know
9 about our blue testifier forms that are on the table as
10 you come in. If you'd like to address the Council at
11 any time in the next couple of days, if you would fill
12 that out and give that to me or any of the staff so we
13 make sure that we make time for your comment, that
14 would be great.

15
16 Some safety we just needed to go over.
17 There's two exits should something happen in this
18 building. The first one, of course, you came through
19 when you came into the meeting. We also have an exit
20 at the rear of the building also. Bathrooms were also
21 to your right as you came in the door.

22
23 And I just wanted to reiterate for
24 those folks on the phone if you do not have a mute
25 button, if you could *6. We have been getting some
26 feedback this morning and that would be very helpful
27 for those that are listening on the phone as well as
28 folks sitting in the room.

29
30 I believe that's all I have at this
31 time.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great. Thank
34 you. Our next agenda item is an action item, so we
35 need to determine whether or not we have a quorum. I
36 know we have some that have had to go offline on the
37 telephone. Mr. Kitka, can you do a roll call again for
38 us, please.

39
40 MR. KITKA: Steve Reifenhuth.

41
42 MR. REIFENSTUHL: Here.

43
44 MR. KITKA: Frank Wright, Jr.

45
46 MR. WRIGHT: Here.

47
48 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.

49
50

1 (No response)
2
3 MR. KITKA: Michael Douville.
4
5 MR. DOUVILLE: here
6
7 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka is here.
8 Robert Schroeder.
9
10 MR. SCHROEDER: Here.
11
12 MR. KITKA: Albert Howard.
13
14 MR. HOWARD: Here.
15
16 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
17
18 (No response)
19
20 MR. KITKA: Kenneth Jackson.
21
22 (No response)
23
24 MR. KITKA: Ray Sensmeier.
25
26 (No response)
27
28 MR. KITKA: John Yeager.
29
30 (No response)
31
32 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yes.
35
36 MR. KITKA: Cathy Needham.
37
38 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Here.
39
40 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair. We still
41 have a quorum.
42
43 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Barely, right?
44 Our next agenda item is election of officers and with
45 that I'll turn it over to Ms. DeAnna Perry.
46
47 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 We will now hold election for officers of the Southeast
49 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Are there any
50

1 nominations for the Chair position.

2

3

Mr. Douville.

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MR. DOUVILLE: I nominate Michael Bangs
for Chair.

7

8

MR. REIFENSTUHL: Second.

9

10

MS. PERRY: Any discussion.

11

12

(No comments)

13

14

15

MS. PERRY: Do we have a motion to
close nominations for the Chair.

16

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MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.

18

19

MS. PERRY: Yes.

20

21

MR. WRIGHT: Close nominations.

22

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MS. PERRY: The nomination for Mike
Bangs and it has been seconded. So do we have a motion
to close nominations for the Chair.

26

27

28

MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair. Close
nominations. This is Frank.

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MS. PERRY: Thank you. I don't think I
heard you clearly the first time. Thank you for that.
All in favor of Mike Bangs being Chair of the Southeast
Advisory Council.....

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35

36

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Roll call vote
because we need to know who is voting.

37

38

39

40

MS. PERRY: Okay. Thank you, Madame
Chair, for reminding me. We need to do a roll call
vote because we have several members on the phone.

41

42

43

Mr. Kitka, if you would do a roll call,
please.

44

45

46

MR. KITKA: Steve Reifenstuhl.

47

48

MR. REIFENSTUHL: Aye.

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50

MR. KITKA: Frank Wright, Jr.

1 MR. WRIGHT: Aye.
2
3 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
4
5 (No response)
6
7 MR. KITKA: Michael Douville.
8
9 MR. DOUVILLE: Aye.
10
11 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka is aye.
12 Robert Schroeder.
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14 MR. SCHROEDER: Aye.
15
16 MR. KITKA: Albert Howard.
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18 MR. HOWARD: Aye.
19
20 MR. KITKA: John Yeager.
21
22 MR. YEAGER: Aye.
23
24 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
25
26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I guess.
27
28 (Laughter)
29
30 MR. KITKA: Cathy Needham.
31
32 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.
33
34 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair. Michael
35 Bangs was voted in unanimously except for the three
36 missing.
37
38 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Congratulations,
39 Mr. Bangs, on becoming the Chair. Do you want to take
40 over the meeting from here?
41
42 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I'll let you take over
43 there until such time as I have a voice and I get over
44 there. We're going to be offline here shortly to go on
45 the ferry. So we'll listen in and we'll let you know
46 as soon as we leave and have to go offline.
47
48 Thank you for entrusting me with the
49 chairmanship again.
50

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: You're going to
2 owe me.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: So the next is
7 election for the Vice Chair. Do we have any
8 nominations for Vice Chair.

9
10 MR. REIFENSTUHL: I would like to move
11 Cathy Needham for Vice Chair.

12
13 MR. DOUVILLE: I'll second.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Are
16 there any other nominations for Vice Chair.

17
18 MR. WRIGHT: This is Frank. Close
19 nominations.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Wright,
22 you're right on top of it. All right. We need to have
23 a roll call vote for Vice Chair.

24
25 MR. KITKA: Steve Reifenstuhl.

26
27 MR. REIFENSTUHL: Aye.

28
29 MR. KITKA: Frank Wright, Jr.

30
31 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

32
33 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.

34
35 (No response)

36
37 MR. KITKA: Michael Douville.

38
39 MR. DOUVILLE: Aye.

40
41 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka is aye.
42 Robert Schroeder.

43
44 MR. SCHROEDER: Aye.

45
46 MR. KITKA: Albert Howard.

47
48 MR. HOWARD: Aye.

49
50

1 MR. KITKA: John Yeager.
2
3 MR. YEAGER: Aye.
4
5 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Aye.
8
9 MR. KITKA: Cathy Needham.
10
11 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Aye.
12
13 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair. The ayes
14 have it. You're our Vice Chair.
15
16 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Our
17 next selection for officers is for Secretary. Do we
18 have any nominations for Secretary.
19
20 MR. REIFENSTUHL: I'd like to nominate
21 Harvey Kitka for Secretary.
22
23 MR. DOUVILLE: Second it.
24
25 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Seconded by Mr.
26 Douville. Are there any other nominations for
27 Secretary.
28
29 MR. WRIGHT: Move to close.
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
34 Wright. Do we need to have a roll call vote? Go
35 ahead.
36
37 MR. KITKA: Steve Reifenstuh1.
38
39 MR. REIFENSTUHL: Aye.
40
41 MR. KITKA: Frank Wright, Jr.
42
43 MR. WRIGHT: Aye.
44
45 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
46
47 (No response)
48
49 MR. KITKA: Mike Douville.
50

1 MR. DOUVILLE: Aye.
2
3 MR. KITKA: Harvey votes yes. Robert
4 Schroeder.
5
6 MR. SCHROEDER: Aye.
7
8 MR. KITKA: Albert Howard.
9
10 MR. HOWARD: Aye.
11
12 MR. KITKA: John Yeager.
13
14 (No response)
15
16 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
17
18 (No response)
19
20 MR. KITKA: Cathy Needham.
21
22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Aye.
23
24 MR. BANGS: Mr. Kitka.
25
26 MR. KITKA: Yes?
27
28 MR. BANGS: I'm sorry. We're
29 (indiscernible).
30
31 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Can you repeat
32 that, please.
33
34 MR. BANGS: This is Mike. I have an
35 aye as well.
36
37 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.
38
39 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair. I guess I'm
40 Secretary again.
41
42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. I'd
43 like to take a brief five-minute break, please. For
44 those of you on the line, if you could stick with us
45 for five minutes. I just need to ask a few questions
46 before we come back in. So let's reconvene in five
47 minutes.
48
49 (Off record)
50

1 (On record)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: If I could have
4 everybody take their seats, please. We'd like to get
5 started back in motion.

6

7 (Pause)

8

9 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, guys,
10 for allowing me five minutes for us to kind of take a
11 quick look at our agenda in flux. I'd like to check on
12 the telephone whether or not we still have Frank and
13 Albert online with us.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: I'm here.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Albert, are you
18 still with us?

19

20 MR. HOWARD: I'm still here, Madame
21 Chair.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great. Thank
24 you. We'll keep checking back. We just need to know
25 at different times whether or not we have a quorum and
26 it's good for me to know who's online since we're going
27 to be moving into our Council reports.

28

29 Before we get started with that I have
30 two announcements. Because we're going to be running
31 the remainder of our meeting with interactions with
32 Council Members online on the telephone, we're going to
33 try to make sure the telephone is always working. One
34 thing that needs to happen is before we can hear people
35 on the telephone the microphones in the room need to
36 all be turned off. If we can all try to help remind,
37 especially me, at this point to turn microphones off
38 when we're done speaking, that will help to hear people
39 on the telephone more clearly.

40

41 The other thing is the next thing on
42 the agenda is to go through our Council reports and
43 after the Council reports we're going to entertain some
44 public testimony. So if you have filled out a blue
45 card or want to give some public testimony this
46 afternoon, please go to the back of the room and pick
47 up a blue card and submit it so that we can call on you
48 to do that after our Council reports are done.

49

50

1 With that I'd like to invite Mr.
2 Reifenstuhl to give a Council report and we'll go
3 around the table with the Council Members that are in
4 the room and then we'll hit the Council Members who are
5 online and hopefully Mr. Bangs and Mr. Yeager will be
6 back with us at that point.

7
8 MR. REIFENSTUHL: Thank you, Madame
9 Chair. I appreciate it. Well, I think mostly good news
10 from Sitka. Seeing lots of age one and two herring in
11 Deep Inlet and around Silver Bay back around our pens.
12 There have been reports of fishermen seeing lots of
13 ones and twos in the bays nearby Sitka. These are the
14 ones that are hard to really know much about because
15 there's no sampling on the ones and twos and we don't
16 see them until they're in the fishery.

17
18 Perhaps some other good news is that
19 the local whale biologist believes that the humpback
20 whales are at the top of their population. She's
21 seeing stress in the whales and there are some less
22 healthy individuals and reproduction may have tapered
23 off. And I say good news because they are constantly
24 there through the whole winter feeding on the herring,
25 so the population has been increasing 6-7 percent for
26 about 15 years and it appears perhaps it's at its
27 maximum.

28
29 Another species is sable fish. They
30 have been sort of on the downturn for a while through
31 southeast and out in District C, but there has been
32 prolific production in St. John the Baptist Bay, which
33 is an area that National Marine Fisheries has been
34 studying and sampling for 30 years. We even had them
35 in Silver Bay last year and there were so many that
36 National Marine Fisheries came out and sampled there to
37 check out the density and numbers and that's very
38 unusual. So it appears the sable fish are on an upturn
39 now.

40
41 I guess a piece of bad news is chinook
42 stocks throughout Southeast Alaska from Ketchikan
43 actually to Copper River are having a downturn and that
44 will affect fishing throughout Southeast Alaska.
45 They've already cancelled the derby in Juneau. There
46 will probably be a very low harvest quota for trawlers
47 and sport fish and charter groups in Southeast because
48 of that downturn. Not only local stocks, but Vancouver
49 Island and Washington state there's downturn there as
50

1 well.

2

3

4 The only chinook stocks that seem to
5 have made a turnaround for the better is up on the
6 Yukon-Kuskokwim last year. They've been struggling for
7 probably close to 20 years. So they had good
8 escapement last year all the way up to the Canadian
9 border.

10

11 I'm concerned about deer population
12 with this extended winter. Even in Sitka, much like
13 Craig, there's not tremendous amount of snow, but the
14 cold temperatures and snow that's only 500 feet up the
15 mountains is definitely affecting the deer and I hope
16 it's not dramatic, although I think on the inside it's
17 going to be much more dramatic where there's great
18 depths of snow. It looks like we're not done with it
19 as well.

20

21 I was at a United Fishermen of Alaska
22 meeting and there was a presentation by National Marine
23 Fisheries, a scientist that specializes in ocean
24 acidification, and it was an excellent
25 presentation and I would recommend that for the fall
26 meeting that's going to be in Juneau, that's where
27 their office is, that I suggest we look into inviting
28 them. I think the Council would find it very
29 informative. A little worrisome, but informative.

30

31 I think that's about it.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
36 Reifenstuhl.

37

38 Mr. Schroeder.

39

40 MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Madame
41 Chair. I think Steve touched on some of the things
42 that are of my concern. I'm a Juneau resident and our
43 resource issues in Juneau we have a number of closures
44 in effect. For a number of years people can't go out
45 and get shrimp because the abundance isn't there. King
46 crab has been closed up for quite a while for locals
47 because, again, abundance isn't there.

48

49 Steve talked about how we're getting
50 ratcheted back on king salmon. Last year was a pretty

1 marginal year for coho salmon. And this is definitely
2 changing around what people can do. No one is
3 particularly grouching and it isn't something that
4 there's a finger pointed at Fish and Game or Forest
5 Service or another management agency, but people are
6 able to do less and less in these areas. This affects
7 what they're able to harvest as well as other patterns.

8
9
10 You have people who are friends of mine
11 and other people who have had a regular pattern for
12 decades of going and fishing early king salmon and then
13 they basically abandoned that or in the same area in
14 upper Chatham out of Funter Bay to have a regular deal
15 of where at least if they could catch lots of coho
16 salmon, then like last year that didn't happen. So we
17 don't have an exactly -- oh, we also have decreased
18 size of king salmon returning.

19
20 I have a major interest in climate
21 change. I don't think we exactly have a direct smoking
22 gun there. We know that there are certain things that
23 affect the abundance of fish that we rely on, namely
24 the ocean acidification will be a problem, temperature
25 changes are a problem particularly in rearing streams.

26
27
28 So I think that's something that we
29 really need to watch and be aware of. In many areas
30 where people are concerned with either hunting and
31 fishing issues or environmental issues, we can get very
32 focused on what we've done in the past and perhaps miss
33 the major cause that is coming at all of us.

34
35 I'd also mention something else which
36 is a little bit like -- you know, it's an incremental
37 change and that would be the increase in industrial
38 tourism, which puts more and more people out on the
39 resources, particularly in the Juneau area, which is
40 what I'm talking about, and that creates a major
41 competition with local residents.

42
43 Finally, I'd really like to see -- I
44 think this Council is exemplary in doing its work and
45 taking strong stands when they're necessary on things.
46 I hope that we continue even to improve our leadership
47 on management issues such that we're not only
48 responding to management changes that take place, but
49 perhaps we

50

1 initiate management directions.

2

3

Thank you, Madame Chair.

4

5

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.

6

Schroeder.

7

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Mr. Kitka.

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MR. KITKA: Thank you, Madame Chair. I want to talk a little about some of the things that concern our area. One of the things has to do with the herring population. We're not exactly sure what Fish and Game is doing on the baseline. When they talk about the baseline, it's such a small area in Sitka that they use as their baseline. If we go back and look at our history and things that were written about the herring in Sitka Sound and how big an area it covered.

They say now it's a very healthy population, but it's not. It's still on the road to recovery. It's been trying to recover ever since herring reduction plans were in place. We've never really seen it come back to where it was before that.

Part of the problem that can be an ongoing thing of which we have really no control over is the population of whales and sea lions that seem to be exploding. A year ago we had probably about 36 whales in Sitka Sound. This year they're talking well over 100 and possibly almost 300 whales within our Sound. So we don't know what that's going to do to the population of herring in Sitka Sound.

We also are concerned about the ocean warming up and temperatures, but we really have no control on that except what it's doing to everything, especially within our clam beds and things. We're seeing something happening there to make them toxic. We've seen more of that than we usually do.

We also have a little problem with our brown bears, which a lot of places they talk about it, but it seems like they're coming out early. We already -- even though we had over a foot of snow in Sitka we already had a mother bear and cubs come out in different parts of Sitka.

1 Another concern that probably affects a
2 lot of people in Southeast is the transboundary mining,
3 which seems to be having some effect on some of our
4 main streams here in Southeast.

5
6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
9 Kitka.

10
11 Mr. Douville.

12
13 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
14 I'm just going to touch briefly on a couple things that
15 seem to be of concern locally. Wolf is one. We or a
16 lot of people here don't seem to have the confidence
17 that the science being used is giving the actual
18 population trend. Like it would be difficult to come
19 up with an exact population, but we don't think the
20 current science is adequate. It doesn't include any
21 local knowledge and the harvest is being held
22 artificially low.

23
24 The other is deer. The deer harvest is
25 max-plus, I believe. We're up to 4,000-plus in harvest
26 of bucks up from a little over 3,000 a few years back.
27 Well, the harvest is going up. I do not believe it's
28 an indication of a population increase. I think we're
29 going to have issues, particularly having a winter like
30 we've had.

31
32 The other thing we're seeing is the rut
33 is lasting much longer than we've seen in the past.
34 The trend is usually around the middle of December, it
35 tapers right off, they drop their horns, but we're
36 seeing that the rut is extending much beyond that,
37 which is probably okay, but it's kind of an indication
38 there's not enough bucks to fertilize all the does in a
39 timely fashion, so the rut goes longer, but it also
40 does another thing. Being that they rut longer, they
41 become skinnier and in poor health and then when you
42 have a winter like we've had, you're going to have -- a
43 lot of those deer will not be alive for the following
44 season.

45
46 We'll discuss the wolf thing, I'm sure,
47 but deer is certainly a concern. I did more hunting
48 this year for less than I ever have. I've been born
49 and raised here. I know this country well.

50

1 Harvey is concerned about the herring
2 in Sitka and I'm concerned about it here. We do a
3 pounding here. In the late '60s, early '70s we had a
4 wild harvest of 100 tons here. After five or six years
5 they shut it down because it was decimating the
6 herring. With the pounding they're doing the same
7 thing, only they're doing it in pounds.

8
9 They've had harvests of over 100,000
10 pounds, but even this year I know there's concern for
11 it because six card holders have to get together to
12 have one pound now. So there is concern among the
13 Department themselves. So how much concern do you have
14 to have before you really do something meaningful.

15
16 I've said this before. When I was
17 younger, it would spawn for two weeks or more here.
18 Now it's two or three days. Well, if you're not
19 Johnny-on-the-spot, you're not going to get any good
20 batches.

21
22 That's all.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
27 Douville. Online, Mr. Wright, are you ready to give a
28 Council report?

29
30 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, sure. Can you hear
31 me okay?

32
33 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

34
35 MR. WRIGHT: This is Frank.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah, we can
38 hear you.

39
40 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Thank you. Thank
41 you, Madame Chair. The bear wandering around Hoonah,
42 so they're already out. The snow started coming down,
43 so I haven't heard about them coming around lately, but
44 it was just up on the street up and a ways here.

45
46 And then hunting, this really seemed
47 like it -- you know, it was a cold winter, but there
48 was a lot of deer that came out of -- I was on Front
49 Street and I see all the skiffs coming in, people

50

1 carrying off the dock.

2
3 February, this last month, we went
4 tanner fishing and we usually got -- we usually picked
5 up some king crab, but maybe a 100 or so out of the
6 pots that we pulled and this year I think we only had
7 three and we were allowed 80 pots a day. So three king
8 crab out of Port Frederick is pretty slim. A couple
9 years ago I had one spot I had one pot that was just
10 plugged with king crab, you know, but this year out of
11 all the pots that I hauled I only got three this year.
12 So there's something going on here. I don't know what
13 it could be.

14
15 Right now the whales -- this year I can
16 see herring out in my front here and then there's
17 whales coming in here and just
18 having a blast, you know. So far more whales than I've
19 ever seen. I remember in the winter you used to never
20 see any whales. I see a lot of young ones here. This
21 morning I saw a good sized one coming by. The herring
22 are just not having too much luck around here. The big
23 one this morning went right into the harbor. I think
24 something's got to be done about it. I don't know. I
25 know they're protected.

26
27 The salmon I've been trawling, but
28 haven't been doing too well on king salmon. I've been
29 talking to the other guys. They're all pretty small.
30 They're not -- they're pretty hard to come by nowadays.
31 I don't know what to do about that.

32
33 Hoonah Indian Association has a person
34 that is working here He was doing shellfish studies on
35 toxic shellfish. Even had a meeting with the community
36 and talking about areas that were more toxic than
37 others. You know, it was really important for a person
38 to even do the studies and he works for the Hoonah
39 Indian Association.

40
41 Sea lions. I don't see why they call
42 them endangered, but
43 they're all over the place here. I mean I was down in
44 my skiff just before this came up and there was about
45 five sea lions swimming around there, wondering if I
46 was going to drop anything overboard. So they're
47 becoming a nuisance when you're trawling and you catch
48 a fish and you've got a sea lions following you and
49 trying to grab your fish off your line.

50

1 Of course we're always having problems
2 with those fur balls, you know, the sea otter. Right
3 behind Hoonah here we have a dungie place and a couple
4 of sea otters were found swimming around back there and
5 it's a cockle bed at the same time. They've been
6 stacking shells in a certain place and they've been
7 digging up cockles, you know, around here and that same
8 place is a dungie place.

9
10 There's nothing much we can do about
11 it, the Native people, because it's within city limits.
12 We told the city police that we need to get rid of them
13 and they said, well, we can't shoot them because of the
14 city limits. So they said we've got one Native cop on
15 the force, but he's not an outdoorsman, so he can't go
16 out there and whack them. I don't think the city is
17 going to do anything about it. I guess we've got to be
18 getting sneaky again, I guess.

19
20 The other thing is those sea otters are
21 eating tanners. The first time I've seen them. When I
22 was tanner fishing, there was a sea otter floating
23 around with a tanner, you know. Over by Pleasant
24 Island there's supposed to be a pretty hot spot for
25 tanner fishing. One of my friends said he was only
26 getting about 20 a pot and that place is only good for
27 one haul. It used to be at least 60 or 70 a pot. So,
28 I don't know. These fur balls keep coming up and I
29 don't know what they're going to do about them. We've
30 just got to change the law or something.

31
32 That's all I've got.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
37 Wright.

38
39 Mr. Howard, are you available to give
40 your Council report.

41
42 MR. HOWARD: I'm here, Madame Chair.
43 Thank you. I have the same concern as Mr. Kitka as far
44 as the herring goes this past summer. A lot of what I
45 do fishing -- I like to catch my own herring. I have
46 more success with fresh bait than I do with anything
47 else. What I'm seeing here in Chatham is -- what I do
48 here in the summertime it takes me to both ends of
49 Chatham.

50

1 But the herring this year for whatever
2 reason they were an inch and a half to two inches long.
3 You can't do anything with anything like that. And we
4 didn't see anything on either side of Chatham this
5 summer that told us there was any bigger herring around
6 that we could make use of. That concerns me because
7 it's pretty much the beginning of the food chain for
8 our salmon.

9
10 Another issue that concerns me is the
11 fact that I met with DEC and they reported that, yes,
12 we acknowledge all this is happening, but we don't have
13 a mechanism in place to address the issue other than
14 monitor it. It's because it's on the north end of
15 Chatham. In the past I talked with Fish and Game
16 biologist and ask him what causes the salmon to return
17 to its natural spawning bed. Is it the minerals in the
18 water that come out of the same bed itself or is it
19 something else and they didn't know. They couldn't
20 give me an answer.

21
22 Having said that, we also talked about
23 the kings are in jeopardy. That's why they closed the
24 north end of Chatham. Something has to be done
25 different. I agree we have to take a position if the
26 State isn't going to recognize the local traditional
27 knowledge and say, hey, there's something wrong here.
28 Because it seems to me that the State takes the
29 position that supports what's currently happening.
30 Over-fishing, pollution in our waters. I'm a
31 fisherman, a hunter. I don't have a marine biology
32 background, but I can tell you you're putting something
33 in the environment that isn't naturally there can't
34 have a positive impact on any of this.

35
36 Our deer population was pretty good
37 this year, but I'm also concerned now that I see all
38 this snow falling that maybe it won't be next year in
39 this community and 80 percent unemployed. We found ways
40 to survive and take care of ourselves, but a lot of
41 it's based on our traditional foods. I won't call it
42 subsistence. That's just a word that was made up.

43
44 I feel in my short lifetime that unless
45 we address this sooner rather than later, it's going to
46 become more and more difficult to live off the resource
47 our communities have come to rely on that are affected
48 by decisions made somewhere else.

49
50

1 It seems it takes more money,
2 pocketbook so to speak, to provide for more people.
3 I'd like people to be able to take care of themselves.
4 I think we need to find a way to recognize local and
5 traditional knowledge and try to implement that because
6 what's being done now isn't working.

7
8 You heard about the whales and the sea
9 lions. We have all those same problems here, but
10 everything happens for a reason. It's nature taking
11 care of itself, but at the price of the next generation
12 of young people. I believe we should take an active
13 role and find a solution and say here's our solution to
14 what's happening.

15
16 We also have sea otters coming in from
17 the south now. We have our younger generation to think
18 of. We have to figure out how to keep them away from
19 the island and south and off the island altogether.

20
21 A lot of proposals we put through
22 before were recognized by the State. One of them was
23 to keep commercial crabbing out of the bay area because
24 that's traditionally where we get out crab, but those
25 didn't make it. So now we're faced with less or no
26 dungeness crab in areas where we're used to getting
27 what we need. That's part of the process that I
28 believe needs to be fixed because what happened is
29 that's a good spot for crabbing, but it shouldn't be at
30 the cost of the community of Angoon.

31
32 If you look at Hawkins and what's
33 happening there, Taku River salmon. We don't know the
34 effect of the millions gallons of water that's been
35 dumped into Hawkins if it has an effect on the salmon
36 fry before they head out to the ocean. We don't know
37 that. We have baseline studies from before the mine
38 had started and it isn't being used today to see the
39 effect on the bay.

40
41 I have a lot of concerns but that's all
42 I'll talk about for now.

43
44 Thank you, Madame Chair.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
47 Howard. Is Mr. Yeager on the line?

48
49 (No response)

50

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Is Ms. Phillips
2 on the line?

3
4 (No response)

5
6 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Bangs, are
7 you online?

8
9 (No response)

10
11 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. I guess
12 that leaves me. My name is Cathy Needham and I was born
13 and raised in Ketchikan, Alaska. I currently reside in
14 the community of Juneau. We do these Council reports
15 at every meeting. It's an important part of our
16 process. It gives us at the table as well as those in
17 the audience background about each of the communities
18 that are in the region that are represented here at the
19 table. It gives a chance for Council Members who
20 interact with people in their communities to talk about
21 concerns, things that are going on with respect to
22 subsistence in their communities.

23
24 I come from the nonrural community of
25 Juneau, so sometimes it's difficult for me to really
26 connect and find local-based issues that we experience.
27 And then, of course, I have the competition of Mr.
28 Schroeder, who also lives in Juneau, and we tend to
29 repeat the same topics because we try to take the
30 regional approach and report our community council
31 reports on items that are of regional important, such
32 as climate change and transboundary issues.

33
34 So each time we come to these meetings
35 I try to prepare something to talk about and this
36 morning I was thinking about what did I really want to
37 report back out of Juneau. I couldn't really come up
38 with much. Juneau does have an organization, the
39 Juneau Community Council that's part of Central Council
40 Tlingit and Haida and they do have a subsistence
41 section where they do talk about customary and
42 traditional use. Unfortunately I don't have much
43 interactions with them and I can't necessarily report
44 on them.

45
46 So I thought well maybe what I really
47 want to talk about is the importance of our youth that
48 grow up in rural communities and in tribal customary
49 and traditional use practices. We do a lot of work
50

1 about assuring that the future of subsistence resources
2 are available, but we have a lot of youth that live in
3 our rural communities and move away to either nonrural
4 communities such as Juneau and Anchorage or even out of
5 state.

6
7 I think one thing that I'd like to try
8 to keep in mind is with youth and young adults as they
9 move out of our communities into other places for jobs,
10 economic opportunities or schooling is that we still
11 want these resources to be available to them.

12
13 So I just wanted to make my comments
14 short and saying that I'd like for all of us at the
15 table as we move through our proceedings that we always
16 stop and think about those youth that have grown up and
17 moved into nonrural communities and the continuation of
18 subsistence opportunities and their ability to partake
19 in cultural things that are important to them. The
20 more we keep that in our forefront, hopefully the more
21 we think about how the future of subsistence
22 opportunities are available throughout our region and
23 throughout our state.

24
25 With that said I want to just do a
26 quick check again. Mr. Wright and Mr. Howard, you're
27 still on the line, correct?

28
29 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

30
31 MR. HOWARD: I'm still here, Madame
32 Chair.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. I
35 got a note. Is Mr. Hernandez on the line?

36
37 (No response)

38
39 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. I think
40 he was trying to call in. We are going to -- remember
41 we adopted the agenda to use it as a guide. It's not
42 guiding us.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: We are going to
47 have Mr. Bangs give a Chair and community report for
48 his community tomorrow and Mr. Yeager has also agreed
49 that he can give a community report for Wrangell

50

1 tomorrow.

2

3 Because we have Mr. Howard and Mr.
4 Wright on the line still we have a quorum, so the next
5 agenda item that we can tackle is review and approve
6 the meeting minutes. So at this time I would entertain
7 a motion to do so.

8

9 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair. I make a
10 motion to approve the minutes.

11

12 MR. REIFENSTUHL: I would like to
13 second, but I have some
14 changes. Can we get it on the floor and do it that
15 way?

16

17 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: (Nods
18 affirmatively)

19

20 MR. REIFENSTUHL: I second.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great. Thank
23 you. It's been moved and seconded to approve the
24 minutes. Do we need time to look them over or are we
25 ready to make potential changes to the minutes at this
26 time.

27

28 MR. REIFENSTUHL: I have a few items.
29 I'm ready.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Please, Mr.
32 Reifenstuhl.

33

34 MR. REIFENSTUHL: Thank you, Madame
35 Chair. So I'll just take them in sequence. So on Page
36 9 my name is spelled wrong. It's R-E-I. Then on Pages
37 12 and 13.

38

39 So in the minutes the abbreviation for
40 the Southeast RAC is done two different ways and there
41 must be an accepted abbreviation. I think we should be
42 consistent through the minutes. I don't know what that
43 abbreviation is or what you want. Let's see, it's in
44 the middle of the page where it's SEARAC, the fourth
45 paragraph from the top of Page 12. And then on Page 13
46 on the fifth paragraph just under Federal fish
47 regulation Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory and
48 it's done differently. If you know what that is maybe
49 you could tell me later is the appropriate way.

50

1 And then on Page 17 under the third
2 section down, it's called Subsistence Use of Facilities
3 in Dry Bay, midway in that paragraph it says factors
4 are used. There needs to be a modifier on factors. I
5 guess I would suggest striking factors and call it
6 subsistence criteria are used in evaluating the need
7 for a cabin.

8
9 And then farther in that sentence, the
10 same sentence, heavily weighted with the activity.
11 Instead of and it should be in determining a temporary
12 structure.

13
14 I have these marked in my book if I can
15 bring these to the appropriate person.

16
17 That's the last I have.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. I
22 think I captured those. Are there other changes to the
23 minutes.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I have one on
28 Page 11 under my community report. Halfway down
29 through the paragraph it says Cordova experienced the
30 worst sockeye returns. That should say Cordova Bay.

31
32 Is there any Council Member online that
33 has any corrections to the meeting minutes from the
34 last meeting.

35
36 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Wright.

39
40 MR. WRIGHT: I was just wondering if
41 Mr. Bangs and Mr. Yeager would have any changes on the
42 minutes. Is there a process around doing that?

43
44 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: We are expecting
45 them to call in again at any moment. Actually it's
46 only 2:30, so it will probably be an hour. They told
47 me they'd call back in when the ferry leaves because
48 right now they're in the lobby where it's very noisy.
49 But there's a motion on the table to approve the
50

1 minutes.

2

3 MR. REIFENSTUHL: Would you prefer that
4 we table the motion until they have a chance?

5

6 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I would
7 entertain that, yes.

8

9 MR. REIFENSTUHL: So if the maker of
10 the motion agrees, I suggest we table it until later in
11 the afternoon.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. If
14 there's no other corrections right now, we'll table the
15 motion.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MR. WRIGHT: Second.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. We're
22 just going to do it. We're using this agenda as a
23 guide. We've gone through everything. We're now on
24 public and tribal comments on non-agenda items.

25

26 Mr. Wagner, would you like to come up
27 and give some comments to the Council.

28

29 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
30 Council. It's been a long time. I have a problem with
31 the continuing closure on the eulachons of all of
32 District 1 when there's no concern for the areas north
33 of Ketchikan. I've been to the Stikine a few times and
34 their run is down from what it used to be. They used
35 to have two runs up there and now it looks like it's
36 down to one. Sometimes the locals don't even get all
37 their needs.

38

39 I'm 69 years old. I've been going up
40 to the Unuk River for over 50 years fishing the
41 eulachon and then we hunt the moose in the fall and
42 there's years where we might be too late, we don't get
43 eulachons or they move around and go into the other
44 rivers to spawn. We've seen that happen.

45

46 But this continuing closure without the
47 Forest Service going in and monitoring the river and
48 looking for themselves in the river at the fish -- I
49 brought pictures about five years ago to the Federal

50

1 Subsistence Board and showed them the pictures of the
2 fish in the river. The cameras aren't really going to
3 tell you much and the airplanes flying around overhead
4 are not going to show you anything.

5
6 Like last year, we took pictures last
7 year of the fish in the river. With the way the glare
8 was in the river, it was hard to get good pictures, but
9 you can see -- tell by knowing what you took pictures
10 of that it was just black in the river. The river was
11 full last year. And there wasn't very many predators
12 for some reason. I don't know, but it was good for us
13 as we have a better run out of it. To be replaced by
14 cameras, I don't know.

15
16 We take the boat up, my son and
17 grandson and I, and we look in the river. We run the
18 river. We have a cabin on the river. For the past
19 seven years the fish have been running on the river,
20 but still we're being denied. First the State Fish and
21 Game announces it's closed and they don't even know
22 what's up there. They're not on the river.

23
24 Then to follow suit a week or so later
25 the Forest Service does the same thing. They're
26 supposed to follow Federal law here. Back in 2000 when
27 the Board got started, we started working with the
28 Boards. Bill Thomas was alive. He was the chair of
29 the RAC board. He had good leadership. He was trying
30 to do what the Board was formed for, to protect
31 people's rights to subsist instead of having to
32 struggle or get wrote up by the fish cops.

33
34 Anyway, managed to get the customary
35 and traditional rights to harvest the eulachons and
36 bring them to town and we were
37 allowed to sell them anywhere. That hasn't happened
38 now for 12
39 years and I'm not getting any younger here. Our old
40 people are passing away. They haven't had their
41 eulachons even though they've been there. The younger
42 generation is not even going to know how to eat them.

43
44 For us, we eat them fresh, we smoke
45 them, we make eulachon grease in Metlakatla. We work
46 hard at it. There's never any waste. It's sad when
47 the river is full and they close it before they even
48 know what comes in. I'm looking forward to another
49 good run in there this year. They starting running a
50

1 couple days ago down in Prince Rupert on the Nass.
2 They say they've got a good run going on down there.
3 So we stay in touch with our neighbors to the south of
4 the border there. We have good friends down there, so
5 we stay in touch.

6
7 This continuing closure without
8 management, that's not right. If you're going to
9 manage, you need to be right there and see what is
10 coming in and knowing what is going up the river. Just
11 because there's not many birds or seals doesn't mean
12 they're not there. We know what to look for and we've
13 seen them and found them. We've been doing this for
14 thousands of years, my family has been doing this. But
15 to not follow Federal law and allow us to fish the
16 eulachon again -- the late Bill Thomas, he said it
17 would take an Act of Congress to change what the
18 Council has passed.

19
20 Just to let you know I was in D.C. the
21 first of the month and I was able to talk to Mr.
22 Loudermilk, the director in the Department of Interior.
23 I was allowed to give him my concerns and I was able to
24 with our senator in Washington. We had other business,
25 but the mayor allowed me to speak on these here because
26 this doesn't just concern us in Metlakatla, this
27 concerns Ketchikan, Saxman, Klawock, Craig, Hydaburg
28 and they haven't been getting their fish either. Why
29 deny all of us our fish.

30
31 And back in the late '90s my wife took
32 a petition -- got a petition started and there was over
33 1,500 signatures that signed this when Phil Doherty, he
34 was the Fish and Wildlife local biologist there, was
35 trying to shut us down. All these signatures we still
36 have them. Enough people went up to the office, so
37 they changed their minds and let us go fish the
38 eulachon.

39
40 One of them was a big, strong pusher
41 was the late Martha Johnson, who has passed away. All
42 these people fought so hard for everyone. It's not for
43 just us to go fishing. We're just the ones who bring it
44 home. Like I heard a couple testimonies here where
45 they're struggling to be able to get enough to share
46 with their families, friends, elders.

47
48 It's been a long, hard struggle. It's
49 over 20 years now that we've been doing this and we
50

1 have the documentation at home. It's all in the files.
2 It's just not how we should be treating people. Our
3 lives are short. I'm in my fifth year from cancer now
4 and it's not an easy thing and I try to keep going and
5 try to do these things. So many people, especially in
6 Ketchikan, that
7 had to go to the Fish and Game office.
8

9 And then when we first got to fish the
10 eulachon, I'm not sure, I think it might have been like
11 2003, and we pulled in to Rise Float (ph), people were
12 all lined up there waiting for the eulachons. Mr. Bill
13 Thomas was sitting on the corner up there as there was
14 the state troopers all over the place, and the
15 harbormasters were trying to tell us we couldn't tie up
16 there and sell the eulachon.
17

18 Larry Dalton, who's not here, died of
19 cancer also, he went to the harbormaster's office, he
20 was on the board, and told them what they were trying
21 to do to us and I think they fired the people that were
22 trying to run us off the dock. Here we have all these
23 Ketchikan residents waiting and frying pans on the
24 stove looking for their fish.
25

26 My wife and I are getting pretty tired.
27 I know, what's the purpose if we're not going to be
28 able to utilize our traditional fish. We have those
29 seven mines going in. Brucejack Mine was operating for
30 10 years and that's where our troubles began. They
31 dumped their tailings in the lake on the mountain. It
32 overflowed into the river. The bears have pretty much
33 disappeared. The salmon on the river is not there.
34 Before, when we'd be hunting up there, the smell would
35 be so strong, it would be like the sea lions up on the
36 Stikine River for the eulachons. They're pretty
37 powerful.
38

39 It's affecting a lot and now that
40 Brucejack Mine started up last year again and still
41 we've got seven more coming in. One will be the
42 largest in the world on the Unuk River there. So are
43 we just going to sit back and watch the mines kill off
44 the rest of our food? That's no management.
45

46 Over in Metlakatla we have a fishery
47 and I help to manage that. We do a good job with our
48 fishery. It's been sustaining itself for years. So I
49 don't know what happened with the co-management and the
50

1 government-to-government.

2

3 Jeff DeFreest came to our council
4 meeting, I think in was about the first of October, and
5 I filled him in on this. I told him I have pictures
6 and the fish were in the river. All he had to say was
7 that I was biased and he couldn't take my word for it.
8 And he says, well, we did fly. We heard there was a
9 few fish in there. We didn't see much. Well, you're
10 up pretty high and you're not going to see much.

11

12 I tried giving him a call, it was
13 around the first of the month. I had to leave a
14 message and never got a call back. We need our people
15 to do a better job and do what they're supposed to do
16 here. This is our lives and our lives are short.
17 We've been patient for 12 years and I think that's more
18 than long enough.

19

20 It's affecting a lot of other things.
21 If I'm still around, I would like to do a little
22 speaking on the moose hunting, what's happening up on
23 the river now from unguided hunts. That was out of
24 hand last year. One boat towed up 14 hunters. We had
25 to get out of there. We went home. We kind of like
26 not getting shot.

27

28 I think I have more, but I think I
29 covered it pretty good.

30

31 I thank you again for allowing me to
32 speak.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
37 Wagner. If you can stay, we might have some questions
38 from Council Members.

39

40 Mr. Douville.

41

42 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
43 I have a couple questions. One, I guess the Fish and
44 Game is the lead on this. It is Federal water. How
45 much effort does the Feds put into monitoring these
46 fish? It seems to me from what Mr. Wagner is saying
47 they do a flyby in an airplane and if they don't see
48 enough sea lions, then they keep it closed for the
49 year.

50

1 Exactly how are you regulating this? I
2 just saw it was closed again for this year from Craig.
3 The fish, you don't even know if they're going to show
4 up or not. It doesn't seem quite fair. If you don't
5 know, you have to watch these things in order to even
6 know what's there where you could open it. You can't
7 just close it like you have been doing. It doesn't
8 make any sense to me.

9
10 From what he's saying, there's no local
11 knowledge. You know, it is Federal water and we should
12 be looking -- the Feds should be looking at that and
13 consulting with the people that do know. This thing
14 seems to have troubles ever since the State had a
15 commercial fishery on it, which no longer exists, but
16 that was the very thing that, I believe, caused the
17 problem initially.

18
19 MR. WAGNER: Did you want me to respond
20 in any way? No?

21
22 MR. DOUVILLE: I guess I want one of
23 the Feds to come up here and explain to me what their
24 participation is.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Wagner, if
27 you can stay just in case we have other Council
28 questions after Mr. Reeves.

29
30 MR. REEVES: Madame Chair. Mr.
31 Douville. Jeff Reeves with the Forest Service. The
32 monitoring that's been going on has been accomplished
33 by aerial surveys as well as we've been trying to
34 deploy satellite cameras. One of the issues though as
35 an agency that we face is due to the remoteness of the
36 Unuk and Boroughs Bay is getting there. We're limited
37 on weather conditions we can fly in and weather
38 conditions we can boat in.

39
40 As you know, in the past we used to
41 camp crews out there and that was -- during that time
42 no fish showed up. As soon as the crews went away,
43 ironically the fish started showing up as well.

44
45 Myself and a couple others actually out
46 of the Ketchikan office we do our best to talk with
47 locals. One local spends time between both Ketchikan
48 and the river. After last year we did talk to him
49 about where we saw -- you know, comparing locations
50

1 where we saw them from the air and where he saw fish.
2 There was a few differences.

3
4 The general feel that we got was that
5 fish were showing up and, yeah, we did miss some from
6 the air, but for the most part where we saw them and
7 like with pictures that we got during the three aerial
8 surveys last year we're fairly confident we saw the
9 majority of the run as it was protracted through.

10
11 As for having anything to compare to
12 past runs, none of us really have that or ever saw the
13 river prior to the collapse. This year I've already
14 been over to Ketchikan twice personally to try to get
15 on the grounds for getting our satellite camera
16 deployed in a better location, but weather this year
17 has just been miserable. So we are actively trying and
18 chances are after this meeting I'll be headed back over
19 there and I hopefully will get a better weather window
20 to get on the grounds.

21
22 As for our last communications though
23 with Mr. Huffine, who had tried to get up the river a
24 week ago, the river is actually iced up with this cold
25 weather. At this point if some show up and we got on
26 the ground, it would probably be really hard to even
27 see them as long as that ice stays in the river.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Douville,
30 follow up.

31
32 MR. DOUVILLE: I find it disappointing
33 that users are deprived of a subsistence opportunity
34 just because the logistics aren't enough to satisfy --
35 the monitoring is suffering because of logistics in
36 other words. But on the other hand you have
37 subsistence people who have done this for many, many
38 years. They
39 haven't been able to do so even though it seems that
40 there may have been an opportunity. We really need to
41 understand how important it is.

42
43 More effort needs to be put into it.
44 You need to put somebody there to watch, not satellite
45 cameras or doing a 150-mile-an-hour flyby. That's not
46 going to work. You might go there one day and the next
47 day the fish will be in the river and you're not there.
48 They're missing an opportunity to get subsistence.

49
50

1 I guess you have to understand how
2 important eulachons are to the culture and the general
3 well-being.

4
5 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Kitka.

6
7 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Madame Chair.
8 In listening to all this, Jeff, is there any
9 possibility of what Mr. Wagner is talking about, kind
10 of a co-management to where the subsistence people can
11 at least talk to you and give you an idea if there's
12 more fish there than they've seen before? Would that
13 help?

14
15 I have another question after that.

16
17 MR. REEVES: Madame Chair. Mr. Kitka.
18 Of course. I mean we're definitely open for -- if
19 something is known that something is going on there,
20 you know, something that we're not able to see, we want
21 to know. I mean the in-season manager, he has
22 expressed that, you know, he would love to reinstitute
23 a fishery at some point, but he wants to make sure that
24 that could happen. You know, the stocks won't take
25 another decline or whatever. But he has some concerns
26 about just diving right back in into a full-fledged
27 fishery, you know.

28
29 But we are definitely open for if
30 something is seen on the ground because, like I said,
31 the remoteness of the site. If it was easier to get
32 to, I think it would be a lot easier to manage.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

35
36 Mr. Kitka, follow up.

37
38 MR. KITKA: Okay. I just wanted to
39 know if the TEK was recognized on the baseline of how
40 much fish have been there and how often it has
41 increased or decreased over time. I just was wondering
42 if you guys have any TEK on that.

43
44 MR. REEVES: Madame Chair. Mr. Kitka.
45 As for the actual levels, no. We do have the prior
46 records of harvest. I did get to talk to one gentleman
47 a couple weeks ago that actually had indicated he used
48 to be part of the commercial fishery back in the years
49 and he had indicated that definitely levels hadn't been

50

1 what he remembered from back in his days.

2

3 A lot of the past harvest probably
4 wasn't documented as well as it maybe could have been.
5 Then the sources that were on the river a lot of them
6 were few and far between. I wish I could know every
7 single one. I could have a conversation with them to
8 be able to wrap my head around it too. They're
9 definitely an interesting fish to try to figure out
10 what they're doing and what's going on.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

13

14 Mr. Schroeder.

15

16 MR. SCHROEDER: Madame Chair. Perhaps
17 we could ask Mr. Wagner to come back up. Mr. Wagner, I
18 really want to thank you for coming before the Council
19 again. Just after you spoke I was trying to think when
20 did I hear you first bring this up and, you know, we're
21 like pushing 20 years. I mean you probably certainly
22 know when you first came before the Council.

23

24 I'm really bothered by this because
25 here we have someone who has brought an issue very
26 politely to the Council and before the Federal
27 Subsistence Board and to the State and we're still not
28 at resolution of this after at least 15 years and
29 possibly 20 years.

30

31 Also my reading of ANILCA doesn't say
32 subsistence opportunity may be curtailed if the harvest
33 is in a remote area. I don't really think that the
34 intention of ANILCA was to say, well, gee, we can't
35 quite get there, it's a little bit difficult for us,
36 the planes don't fly. I don't think that really cuts
37 the argument. I'm not impressed at all. Of course
38 Unuk is difficult to get to, but it also is definitely
39 a subsistence harvest area. No one is debating that
40 whatsoever.

41

42 The importance of eulachon and eulachon
43 grease for indigenous people in Southeast Alaska is
44 absolutely certain. There's no debate on that. So I
45 really don't think that the argument that, well, we
46 can't quite do it because it's a little difficult, the
47 cameras don't work, really cuts it.

48

49 I asked for you to come back because I

50

1 think we have something somewhat new, it just started
2 the last few years, Mr. Wagner, which is the potential
3 for major mineral development on this system. And if
4 we do not have good data on what exists in that system,
5 we will not be able to show that there's impact from
6 potential mine spills, which are pretty likely to
7 occur.

8
9 Just so we get that on the record, if
10 you could speak a little bit more about the potential
11 mining on the Unuk, Mr. Wagner.

12
13 MR. WAGNER: Okay. On the Brucejack
14 Mine that operated for the 10 years like I said. Last
15 year it started back up again. I don't know how much
16 longer they will run it. I think that's like seven
17 miles from our border, the American border there on the
18 river. Right across just about straight across from
19 there is going to be the Seabridge Mine, SP mine. It
20 will be the largest in the world and they figure by the
21 time they're finished their rock wall will be possibly
22 800 feet high. It will be the largest in the world.
23 And all you can think about when you hear that is down
24 by Bellingham there when that Mt. Polley Mine let go
25 and that was a terrible disaster. It wiped that whole
26 river out.

27
28 Say that mine gets its 700-foot wall up
29 there and then it lets go. It's going to cause a tidal
30 wave out of there and it will wipe out all our salmon
31 fisheries, all our wildlife, everything out of there.

32
33 I met in Juneau a little over a year
34 ago, I think, when Minister Bennet was there. He
35 thanked me for talking. I went over the whole thing,
36 told him what's happening to our wildlife on the river
37 and he says, well, that's what we need to hear. People
38 who have been on the river all those years and seen the
39 changes from the mining. But it sounds like they're
40 still
41 going ahead with it anyway. It's a scary thing.
42 They're not just poisoning that, they're going to be
43 poisoning the whole water system all the way out
44 through Beam Canal into the ocean.

45
46 The king salmon we hadn't seen them, my
47 son and I, in about five years and year before last
48 they came back. They were in that Kingsbury River
49 again. That was a beautiful sight. Back in early '60s
50

1 there would be -- you know, some of them looked like
2 six-footers in there spawning. We've seen a lot of
3 changes on that river and it's a dirty shame that we're
4 not trusted as Alaska Natives to take care of our
5 resources and just to be denied them.

6
7 If I could go back to about five years
8 ago, we went up Carroll Inlet to look for eulachons.
9 Holy smokes, we got up there, the river was full of
10 eulachons and it's not a natural
11 run. So I anchored up and I had my family with me and
12 I was waiting. Pretty soon here comes the Forest
13 Service. What are you doing up here? Here comes the
14 state troopers. What are you doing up here? Are you
15 steelhead fishing? I says, no, look around. I says
16 eulachon are here and the river is plum full.

17
18 I could have taken enough for the
19 people's needs, but since we hadn't gotten any in a
20 year or two we took one skiff load, one set. Filled up
21 a skiff. It was a big aluminum skiff. We brought
22 those back to Metlakatla and we shared with some of the
23 elders and we made our grease. We were pretty well out
24 of grease, so we made some fresh eulachon grease.

25
26 Immediately after that Scott Walker
27 closed all the areas knowing the eulachons are there
28 and the river is full. That's not management. That's
29 just ordering us not to be able to have our fish. This
30 is not a way to manage. We're all human beings and we
31 should be allowed to harvest what our families have
32 done for 10,000 years. It's a struggle.

33
34 We're getting more people from down
35 below coming and taking our resources and it's just
36 leaving us with less and less. It's not fair. A lot
37 of people don't have boats big enough to go farther out
38 to get a halibut or salmon.

39
40 MR. SCHROEDER: Excuse me. Again,
41 thank you for your testimony. I believe we're
42 finalizing our annual report in this meeting. When we
43 get to that point, I think that this should be an
44 annual report item for us. The Federal Subsistence
45 Board does respond to our annual report.

46
47 I'd also note that this particular
48 eulachon harvest is really kind of interesting because
49 it's very much a community harvest because, as Mr.

50

1 Wagner says, this isn't the sort of thing where you get
2 in your 16-foot Lund, go out for the afternoon.
3 Really, we have Mr. Wagner and occasionally a number of
4 other boats basically harvesting for everyone who uses
5 this. So that's a somewhat of a specialized harvest.
6 It's not completely unusual. We have other community
7 harvests that go on in Southeast Alaska where someone
8 uses their vessel and provides fish for their
9 community.

10
11 That's all I have and thanks again for
12 coming.

13
14 MR. WAGNER: If I may add on the
15 weather. We watch the weather and we go up to the
16 river and we haven't lost one
17 person or we haven't lost one boat yet, knock on wood.
18 We know how to take care of ourselves and we understand
19 the river. We're not afraid of the river or use it for
20 an excuse. We always respect the land and water there.

21
22 I thank you for inviting me here.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
25 Wagner. I'd like to take a 15-minute break. Did you
26 have a question?

27
28 MR. KITKA: One more question for Mr.
29 Wagner.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay, Mr. Kitka.
32 One more question for Mr. Wagner.

33
34 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Wagner.
35 Just one question. I was more curious if you guys knew
36 when the salmon started disappearing. Any idea what
37 year that was?

38
39 MR. WAGNER: It started slowly when the
40 eulachons were disappearing and kind of monitored it by
41 what was on the banks and the amount of bears that we
42 would see. Every day we'd see bears up there on the
43 banks and feeding and there would be tracks
44 everywhere. Since that mine has started it's down to
45 -- year before last we seen one bear on the river.
46 Last year we didn't see any. Seen a few tracks. And
47 there's no dead carcasses on the beach like there
48 always had been.

49
50

1 And on Kingsbury there there was some
2 salmon carcasses there, but wolves were eating on
3 those. Now on Kingsbury there's a beaver dam across
4 the river. It got so low last year beavers put a dam
5 right across where the king salmon spawn. I reported
6 that to Jeff DeFreest too, but there was no comments.
7 But that beaver dam needs to come out. But it
8 gradually disappeared to where the coho run up there
9 are really small now and the dog salmon. It's just the
10 fish aren't there and the bear aren't there.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.
13 Thank you. I'd like to take a 15-minute break, so
14 we'll reconvene at 3:25.

15
16 (Off record)

17
18 (On record)

19
20 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. If we
21 could get started, please.

22
23 (Pause)

24
25 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: We're going to
26 go ahead and get started again. Thank you. I want to
27 take a moment to go back over who we have online. It's
28 my understanding that Mr. Hernandez, one of our Council
29 Members, has been able to join us by telephone.

30
31 Don, are you online with us?

32
33 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, I am, Cathy. Can
34 you hear me okay?

35
36 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: You're coming in
37 loud and clear from Point Baker. I'm sorry you're not
38 here with us.

39
40 MR. HERNANDEZ: I might make it
41 tomorrow.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: We'll keep our
44 fingers crossed for you. I know Mr. Bangs and Mr.
45 Yeager are online with us on the telephone as well.
46 Are Mr. Howard and Mr. Wright still with us?

47
48 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

49
50

1 MR. HOWARD: I'm still here, Madame
2 Chair.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Excellent. Than
5 you guys for hanging with us all afternoon. I know
6 it's hard to do these things by telephone, but we've
7 actually been able to move pretty efficiently through
8 the beginning of our agenda as the five of us sit here
9 at the table while the rest of you sit on the
10 telephone. So thanks for your patience with that.

11
12 We're going to go ahead and back step
13 to take care of one agenda item. Don, just so you
14 know, we're going to have some Council reports
15 tomorrow. We did the Council reports for all of us
16 that were present. I put you on the list because Mr.
17 Bangs and Mr. Yeager are in transit and they'll give
18 theirs tomorrow. Ms. Phillips had to step off the line,
19 so she'll give hers tomorrow. So we'll add your
20 Council report tomorrow. Hopefully you'll be in the
21 room with us.

22
23 What we've been doing for the action
24 items that we've gotten going on the agenda today we've
25 been doing roll call votes mainly because we need to
26 make sure that we have a quorum in order to do those
27 votes. So we'll continue to do roll call votes today.
28 However, tomorrow, with Mr. Bangs and Mr. Yeager
29 joining us, we'll actually have a quorum in the room
30 and we'll be able to do any action items by just doing
31 ayes and nays now that we have everybody here.

32
33 At this time one thing that we did not
34 get done before moving to old business was reviewing
35 and approving the previous meeting minutes. We had a
36 motion to adopt and then we had a motion to table that
37 in case Council Members such as Mr. Bangs and Mr.
38 Yeager and Mr. Hernandez had corrections to those
39 minutes.

40
41 At this time I'd entertain a motion to
42 untable that.

43
44 MR. REIFENSTUHL: I'd like to make a
45 motion to bring the minutes off the table and to the
46 floor for consideration.

47
48 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: It's been
2 seconded by Mr. Douville. We had some corrections to
3 the minutes that Mr. Reifensstuhl and myself added. We
4 kept track of those. Mr. Bangs, do you have any
5 corrections to the meeting minutes from the last
6 meeting.

7
8 (No response)

9
10 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Maybe we lost
11 him. Mr. Yeager, are you still with us and do you have
12 any corrections to the last meeting minutes?

13
14 MR. YEAGER: No, Madame Chair, I have
15 no corrections to the last meeting minutes.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thanks. Mr.
20 Hernandez, do you have any corrections to the last
21 meeting minutes?

22
23 MR. HERNANDEZ: I noticed one slight
24 error. Maybe somebody picked it up. In your Council
25 report last year, Cathy, we talked about Cordova
26 experienced the worst sockeye returns into Hetta and
27 Eek. I assume that must have meant Hydaburg
28 experienced the worst sockeye returns. A minor
29 correction.

30
31 MR. WRIGHT: Cordova Bay.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
34 Hernandez. That was corrected to Cordova Bay.

35
36 MR. HERNANDEZ: Very good. None others
37 for me.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any
40 other Council Members online that have corrections to
41 the meeting minutes from the last meeting.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MR. KITKA: Question.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: The question for
48 the main motion has been called to adopt the meeting
49 minutes from the last meeting. At this point we need to
50

1 do a roll call vote for adopting the minutes from the
2 last meeting. Mr. Kitka.

3
4 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Madame Chair.

5
6 Steve Reifenstuhel.

7
8 MR. REIFENSTUHL: Aye.

9
10 MR. KITKA: Frank Wright, Jr.

11
12 MR. WRIGHT: Aye.

13
14 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.

15
16 (No response)

17
18 MR. KITKA: Mike Douville.

19
20 MR. DOUVILLE: Aye.

21
22 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes aye.
23 Robert Schroeder.

24
25 MR. SCHROEDER: Aye.

26
27 MR. KITKA: Albert Howard.

28
29 MR. HOWARD: Aye.

30
31 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.

32
33 MR. HERNANDEZ: Aye.

34
35 MR. KITKA: John Yeager.

36
37 MR. YEAGER: Aye.

38
39 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.

40
41 MR. BANGS: Aye.

42
43 MR. KITKA: Cathy Needham.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Aye.

46
47 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair. We had 10 in
48 favor and 3 absent.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great. Thank
2 you. All right. Now we are going to go into -- I want
3 to recognize that we had a few new people come in since
4 we did introductions this morning and also that we may
5 have new people participating by telephone. If you
6 want to give public comment we have these blue cards
7 that you can fill out at the back of the room in order
8 to be put on the list for consideration for doing
9 comments to non-agenda items.

10
11 At this time I want to ask whether or
12 not there's anybody on the telephone who would like to
13 give testimony on non-agenda items at this time.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.
18 Remember we'll be taking these blue cards each morning
19 to give people the opportunity to give comment on non-
20 agenda items. Just fill these cards out and submit
21 them in the back of the room and we'll make time to
22 hear those comments from people who want to
23 participate.

24
25 Now we're going to move into old
26 business on the agenda. The first item on old business
27 is revisions to the Draft MOU with the State of Alaska.
28 So, Ms. Jennifer Hardin if you can please come forward
29 to give your presentation on this.

30
31 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair. Are you
32 finished with Mr. Reeves or Mr. Wagner?

33
34 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'm sorry,
35 Albert. Did you have comments and questions for Mr.
36 Wagner on his testimony for eulachon?

37
38 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair. I have a
39 question for the government body that decides whether
40 or not the area is open or closed for eulachon. Madame
41 Chair.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Do you mind,
44 Jennifer, if we finish this up before.....

45
46 MS. HARDIN: (Shakes head negatively)

47
48 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. Mr.
49 Reeves, if you could come forward for Mr. Howard's
50

1 question, please.

2

3 MR. REEVES: Madame Chair. Go ahead,
4 Albert.

5

6 MR. HOWARD: (Indiscernible)

7

8 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'm sorry, Mr.
9 Howard. My microphone was on and so you come through
10 as broken up. I'll turn it off and if you could repeat
11 your question, that would be great, thanks.

12

13 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.
14 My question is, I heard Mr. Douville mention to the
15 fact that the area is being closed again for eulachon
16 and I wonder if that's the case and what data do they
17 base that closure on.

18

19 MR. REEVES: Madame Chair. Mr. Howard.
20 A closure was implemented that effectively closed the
21 district to the subsistence take of eulachon beginning
22 March 6th and according to regulation the closure would
23 be effective for 60 days unless it's further lifted.
24 So what could happen possibly is that if a huge
25 abundance did show, the in-season manager could lift
26 the closure and could possibly institute a fishery of
27 some level if they so chose.

28

29 The decision was kind of based on --
30 yeah, even though there had been documented returns
31 over the past years, the comfort level of what returns
32 had been showing just wasn't there to initiate and
33 large-scale fishery or any fishery at this point.

34

35 One of the other factors too that kind
36 of has been playing in there is some of the southern
37 stocks from B.C. down, both Canadian and Lower 48, like
38 Washington managers, they are actually kind of
39 anticipating lower returns just based on kind of the
40 indication of what's being seen in ocean productivity
41 issues.

42

43 So that right there is just showing
44 kind of the fact that a lot of managers are really
45 wanting to proceed carefully. While it's been
46 promising that, like I said, there's been stocks kind
47 of showing in places that they hadn't been. It's not
48 still any full indication of a recovery.

49

50

1 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair. A follow-
2 up. According to the executive order has -- I'm trying
3 to figure out how to word this. Are you doing anything
4 different as far as assessing the stocks or are you
5 just basically doing the same thing you've always done
6 for years and hoping that you'll end up with a better
7 result? I guess is my question. Is anything being
8 done different to your stock?

9
10 I agree with Mr. Douville that when
11 (indiscernible) stock that there shouldn't be any
12 excuses weather-wise or any-wise to why you aren't
13 monitoring it. It seems to me that Mr. Wagner had
14 local and traditional knowledge of fish moving in and
15 out. I'm a firm believer of working together and
16 conserving the resource. Just so you're aware, I'm
17 full-blooded Tlingit and I've never taken anything
18 (indiscernible) and I've never commercialized anything
19 I've done.

20
21 And so I think working with Mr. Wagner
22 and figuring out a way to make it happen instead of
23 just completely shutting it down I think would benefit
24 your knowledge as well as his of how to manage a
25 resource if you work with him and try to learn
26 something from him, I believe.

27
28 MR. REEVES: Madame Chair. Mr. Howard.
29 Basically, you know, you asked has anything really
30 changed. Our methods and means basically of how we're
31 trying to determine if presence is occurring has
32 changed before it was more strictly dependent on seeing
33 an indication of predators and that such from the air.

34
35 Over the past few years we've switched
36 to try to see if the satellite camera technology could
37 actually give us a better idea to know when immediate
38 activity was occurring, you know. If we were seeing
39 stuff like the predator activity and such. We're fine
40 tuning that each season and we're doing our best
41 as an agency to try to monitor what's going on there.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
44 Reeves. All right. I'd like to move into old
45 business. So at this time if Ms. Hardin can come up to
46 give the revisions to the Draft MOU with the State of
47 Alaska report, please.

48
49 MS. HARDIN: Good afternoon. Thank
50

1 you, Madame Chair. For the record, my name is Jennifer
2 Hardin and I'm the Anthropology Division Chief at the
3 Office of Subsistence Management.

4
5 My report on the Draft Memorandum of
6 Understanding between the Federal Subsistence Board and
7 the State of Alaska is very brief today. There are
8 very few new developments since we came to you all in
9 fall of 2016 to ask for your comments on the draft as
10 it stood at that time. I should let you know that you
11 can find a summary of what I'm about to talk to you
12 about in your supplemental materials in the OSM report.
13 It's on the second page of the OSM report.

14
15 We presented the Draft Memorandum of
16 Understanding to all the Regional Advisory Councils in
17 the fall of 2016 and requested feedback from you and
18 your comments, which were taken back to the working
19 group that's putting together this draft. All of those
20 comments that we received from Councils were recorded.
21 We also received numerous comments from the State of
22 Alaska on that Draft Memorandum of Understanding and we
23 received comments from State Fish and Game Advisory
24 Committees.

25
26 Right now the working group that I
27 referenced that's working on the Memorandum of
28 Understanding is composed of State and federal
29 employees and they are working to incorporate the
30 comments that were received to develop a new Draft
31 Memorandum of Understanding. Once those comments are
32 integrated the revision will be presented to the
33 Federal Subsistence Board for their approval and
34 whether or not a new draft comes back to you for your
35 comments will depend on the timing of when this next
36 version is completed.

37
38 That's all the information I have, but
39 I'm happy to try to answer any questions you might
40 have.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Are
43 there any questions for Ms. Hardin.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any
48 Council Members online that have questions for Ms.
49 Hardin regarding the Draft MOU with the State of
50

1 Alaska.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.

6

7

8

9

Thank you. The next agenda item is the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan update and that will be given by Ms. Hardin, please.

10

11

12

13

14

15

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18

MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Madame Chair. Again, Jennifer Hardin for the record. The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program status update. Each of you should have in front of you a timeline that says 2018 FRMP timeline. There's also copies on the back table for folks in the audience. This will give you an overview of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program for our next funding call.

19

20

21

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29

So a 2018 call for proposals was issued on November 23rd of 2016 and it closed on February 20th of this year. We are just now receiving those proposals in the Office of Subsistence Management. So the next step in the process is proposal review and ranking by the Technical Review Committee. That will occur sometime between now and May, then the ranked proposals will come in front of the Council during your next meeting cycle and we'll be asking you for your comments on those rankings and the proposals.

30

31

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40

After that the Interagency Staff Committee will then receive your comments and the Technical Review Committee's rankings of proposals and they'll submit their comments and then finally all of those comments will be forwarded to the Federal Subsistence Board for their recommendations. Final funding decisions, as you know, will be made in the Office of Subsistence Management and that should occur following the January 2018 Federal Subsistence Board meeting.

41

42

43

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So I just really wanted to give you a status update and tell you where we are in the process, let you know that we'll be coming back to you at your next meeting looking for your comments on the Southeast proposals that we've received and the TRC has ranked. If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact myself or Stewart Cogswell, the Fisheries Division Chief at OSM and co-chair of the Technical Review Committee.

1 I'm happy to answer any questions you
2 may have.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any
5 questions for Ms. Hardin regarding the FRMP project
6 timeline.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any
11 Council Members online that have any questions for Ms.
12 Hardin regarding the FRMP program update?

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. The
17 next item on the agenda we'll actually table until
18 tomorrow. It's the Forest Plan update that Mr. Stewart
19 will be giving from the Forest Service. The next thing
20 we have is our Customary and Traditional Use update
21 from Ms. Hardin at OSM, please.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 Jennifer Hardin for the record, OSM. You all have in
27 your supplemental materials a letter that was sent from
28 the Federal Subsistence Board to Chairman Bangs. It's
29 dated June 21st, 2016. It's in response to two letters
30 that you submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board
31 with questions and comments and concerns about the
32 customary and traditional use determination process in
33 the Federal program.

34
35 So I've been asked to just sort of give
36 a brief status update or overview of the Federal
37 Subsistence Management Program's customary and
38 traditional use determination process. I won't go
39 through this letter point by point. I'm just going to
40 hit some of the highlights, but the letter is there in
41 your packet for your reference.

42
43 First of all, the Federal Subsistence
44 Management Program approach to customary and
45 traditional use determinations. Before I jump into
46 that, I want to again thank you. I know we have
47 thanked you before, but I want to make sure I thank you
48 again on behalf of the Office of Subsistence Management
49 and the Federal Subsistence Board because you all have

50

1 really generated a very robust and I think productive
2 conversation and dialogue about this process and how it
3 works in the Federal Program and how it differs from
4 the Section 804 process. So thank you again.

5
6 The customary and traditional use
7 determination process is contained -- the framework for
8 assessing customary and traditional uses in the Federal
9 Subsistence Management Program is contained in the
10 Federal subsistence regulations in Part B of those
11 regulations.

12
13 The framework consists of eight factors
14 that are outlined in the regulations and illustrate
15 customary and traditional uses. So the eight factor
16 analysis that's used by the Federal Subsistence Board
17 to make customary and traditional use determinations,
18 the purpose is -- the intention is to protect and
19 identify subsistence uses rather than to limit them.

20
21 So I want to just be really clear on
22 that. When the Board considers customary and
23 traditional uses in the Federal program and makes a
24 determination, the overall intent is to identify and
25 acknowledge those practices that make up the
26 subsistence way of life in rural Alaska.

27
28 Because of the importance of
29 subsistence in rural Alaska, it's assumed that
30 customary and traditional use determinations will be
31 broad and inclusive. The eight factors that are
32 included in the regulations do not consist of a
33 checklist. They provide a framework only around which
34 to have a discussion about subsistence uses throughout
35 the state and those practices that are considered
36 customary and traditional.

37
38 When we analyze those at the Office of Subsistence
39 Management, we're interested in a holistic view of
40 practices. So we're interested in whether communities
41 and areas generally have some or all of those eight
42 characteristics that are outlined in regulation. Again
43 it's not a checklist. We're not looking necessarily
44 for every single one.

45
46 The Board has been clear that all eight
47 of those factors don't need to be present in order to
48 find that a community or area has customarily and
49 traditionally used a resource and, at the same time,

50

1 they aren't necessarily equally weighted. The intent
2 of having the framework and approaching it in that
3 manner is to allow for flexibility that provides for
4 acknowledgment of the variability across the state. So
5 not every community throughout rural Alaska is the same
6 and the Board wants to be flexible in how it assesses
7 customary and traditional uses.

8
9 Again, the Board understands that there
10 are regional and cultural differences and the purpose
11 of the framework is to allow for those to come forward
12 in the analyses of these requests for determinations.

13
14 A really important point that I just
15 want to emphasize again is that Regional Advisory
16 Councils have deference when it comes to customary and
17 traditional use determinations in the Federal program,
18 so the Board is looking to you and the other Councils
19 to provide that local knowledge to comment on the local
20 perspective. You represent subsistence users. You
21 have direct knowledge of the subsistence way of life in
22 your region. So the Board is looking to you for that.

23
24 So what I've just described is the
25 customary and traditional use determination and
26 oftentimes we talk about customary and traditional uses
27 or at times they can become wrapped up with what we
28 talk about as Section 804 and they're not the same. So
29 I just wanted to briefly go over that.

30
31 Customary and traditional use
32 determinations identify again subsistence uses that are
33 central to the subsistence way of life in rural Alaska.
34 As such they do, along with rural status, provide the
35 foundation for the Federal subsistence priority,
36 however their purpose is not to restrict access or to
37 manage resources. They are to identify and acknowledge
38 practice.

39
40 When resources are abundant and no
41 restrictions are necessary, then harvest by all users
42 is allowed on Federal public lands. So that means that
43 all uses and users that are authorized under State
44 regulations and Federal regulations are authorized on
45 Federal public lands.

46
47 But in times of a conservation concern
48 or if we see increasing competition for a resource, as
49 you all know, ANILCA provides -- Title VIII provides
50

1 for a priority for subsistence uses, the non-wasteful
2 consumption of resources for subsistence purposes on
3 Federal public lands. That's where Section 804
4 prioritization comes into play.

5
6 So if resources need to be restricted
7 in some way because of competition or conservation,
8 then the Board is authorized to prioritize subsistence
9 uses over other uses on Federal public lands. Ideally
10 the Board does that in a phase approach. The first
11 step would be to close to non-subsistence uses and then
12 the next step, if that still doesn't allow for enough
13 -- if there's still not enough resources to meet all
14 the requests for opportunity of Federally qualified
15 subsistence users, then the Board is authorized to take
16 the next step, which is to prioritize among Federally
17 qualified subsistence users.

18
19 So what I mean by that is the Board can
20 do a Section 804 analysis to determine which rural
21 residents with a customary and traditional use
22 determination have the highest customary dependence on
23 a resource. Again, that is in a time when -- that does
24 not occur and should not be occurring if resources are
25 abundant.

26
27 When the Board faces a situation where
28 they need to restrict and they need to prioritize
29 amongst subsistence users, then they have to take into
30 account those three criteria that are outlined in
31 Section 804 of ANILCA and they must look at all three
32 criteria.

33
34 The eight factors that we talk about
35 for C&T, we say it's not a checklist, they don't all
36 have to be there, the Board must look at all three
37 criteria in Section 804 when it comes to restricting
38 access or restricting opportunity. The Board's intent
39 always is to provide for maximum amount of opportunity
40 for the maximum number of users.

41
42 Just to recap, C&Ts are meant to
43 acknowledge and identify customary and traditional
44 practices. Section 804 subsistence user prioritization
45 the purpose is to restrict and manage.

46
47 If the Council has any questions, I'm
48 happy to answer them.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any
2 questions from Council Members for Ms. Hardin regarding
3 C&T. Mr. Schroeder.

4
5 MR. SCHROEDER: How did you guess?

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 MR. SCHROEDER: Madame Chair.
10 Jennifer. You know, I know you've gone through the
11 history of how we got to where we're at on C&Ts. You
12 know, probably if the Federal program was beginning
13 today with a blank sheet of paper, things would look a
14 little bit different than they do. I'm wondering if
15 you have any comments on ways that the Southeast
16 Regional Council may move forward to get our C&T
17 determinations in line with both our statement to the
18 Federal Board and in line with the Board policy that
19 you just described.

20
21 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair. Thank
22 you, Mr. Schroeder. Absolutely. One of the fantastic
23 things about this program is that we have regular
24 opportunities to make changes to the regulations or to
25 make changes to the program. So, as I've mentioned
26 before, if this Council has identified any existing
27 customary and traditional use determinations that you
28 feel need to be revised or there are areas where you
29 feel a customary and traditional use determination is
30 warranted, then we urge you to submit proposals to do
31 that and we're happy to work with you to develop those
32 proposals and then, of course, we'll go through the
33 regular process of bringing the proposal back.

34
35 Does that answer your question, Mr.
36 Schroeder?

37
38 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Schroeder.

39
40 MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you. Through the
41 Chair, Jennifer. Thanks a lot. As a Council, we
42 haven't discussed this at great length, but at
43 different times over the years we have identified real
44 clear problems. One which I just mentioned would be
45 the fact that people from one area of Southeast may
46 have relatives in other places or friends that they
47 visit or communities they go to for other purposes.

48
49 At the moment someone could be a
50

1 subsistence hunter of deer in one area and then be
2 visiting their friend in Hoonah and they would not be
3 able to hunt under -- say, for example, if it was
4 someone from Metlakatla who was visiting a friend in
5 Hoonah. They would not be able to hunt under Federal
6 subsistence regulations.

7
8 We have quite a few of those. It
9 creates two problems. One is the real problem on the
10 ground of how someone could be doing something which
11 certainly seems customary and traditional, hunting with
12 your relatives, your friends, your extended family,
13 seems pretty traditional to me.

14
15 And then the other is we have a
16 regulatory complexity such that if someone is going to
17 another part of our region and wants to hunt, perhaps
18 the first thing they need to do before they get a
19 ticket is not to call their friend up, but spend a few
20 hours reading the harvest of wildlife on Federal public
21 lands in Alaska book to see if they can legally hunt as
22 a subsistence user.

23
24 So those are kind of the things -- some
25 of the things that we might wish to address as a
26 Council. I don't know if you have any comment on that.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

29
30 MS. HARDIN: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
31 Schroeder. Through the Chair. I understand the
32 concerns you've expressed and we certainly want to work
33 with the Council in whatever way we can to clarify the
34 customary and traditional use determinations if the
35 Council has identified areas of concern. Absolutely.

36
37 I do want to say, and as noted in the
38 letter, that the Board makes determinations based on
39 communities or areas rather than on an individual basis
40 now that there's some specific differences on National
41 Park Service land, but I'm just going to speak to the
42 non-NPS regulations right now.

43
44 The Council can define -- we look to
45 whoever submits a proposal, whether it's the Council or
46 an individual, to define the community or area or
47 communities and areas that they would like included in
48 the determination, but just as a note the Board looks
49 at communities or areas versus individuals.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Schroeder.

2
3 MR. SCHROEDER: Just a quick follow up
4 because I don't think I was very clear. The one is the
5 actual problem interfering with what people may wish to
6 do. The second is just having overly complex
7 regulations on customary and traditional use that may
8 be difficult to understand and to implement.

9
10 So I think as a Council we might have
11 two goals. One is to clearly protect subsistence uses
12 and allow them to continue. And the second is probably
13 equally important, which is to avoid unnecessary
14 regulatory complexity which doesn't help anyone out.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Did you have a
19 response to that, Ms. Hardin.

20
21 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
22 Thank you, Mr. Schroeder. We are definitely on board
23 to help you with any work that you want to do in the
24 future to clarify, simplify, expand. Just let us know
25 how we can help and we'll be happy to do so.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any
28 other questions regarding customary and traditional use
29 from Council Members.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Is there anyone
34 on the telephone that would like to ask Ms. Hardin
35 questions regarding customary and traditional use.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I guess I have a
40 question. Here we are, March 2017. We all say we want
41 to work together. How are we going to do it. You say
42 you are willing to work with us to help do this and
43 have members -- we've had a working group that have
44 worked and tried at least one tactic to put some
45 regulatory language together to be evaluated.

46
47 What is the next mechanism so that we
48 can move forward and we're not sitting here in six
49 months getting another update where we are going to say
50

1 that we all want to move forward and you're willing to
2 help us? Can we break that pattern?

3
4 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
5 Absolutely. So we're about to enter into a wildlife,
6 which I'll talk about a little bit later, a wildlife
7 regulatory cycle. This would be an opportunity -- this
8 would be a time at this meeting if there are any
9 customary and traditional use determinations that the
10 Council related to wildlife that the Council would like
11 to look at in the next cycle. This would be the time
12 for you all to discuss it at your meeting and vote on
13 any proposals that you would want to put forward.

14
15 Similarly we could -- if you're not
16 ready to do that now, since you have a subcommittee we
17 could meet with the subcommittee moving on towards the
18 fisheries regulatory cycle and be prepared -- work with
19 the subcommittee if the subcommittee has an interest to
20 bring forward proposals for the fisheries regulatory
21 cycle.

22
23 The Office of Subsistence Management we
24 don't develop those proposals on our own just as a
25 matter of policy, but we will work with you to develop
26 them if that is something you wish to proceed with.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Mr.
29 Hernandez, are you still on the telephone with us?

30
31 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, I am, Cathy.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: A question for
34 you. Are you interested or would the workgroup be
35 interested in direct dialogue with OSM regarding
36 putting together proposals during this meeting for
37 wildlife or between this meeting and the next fisheries
38 cycle?

39
40 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you, Cathy.
41 That's a good question. I was thinking that I kind of
42 wanted to discuss with the rest of the Council here at
43 this meeting because I think we've gotten to that point
44 where it's time to start moving forward. I think we
45 have a good understanding with the Board now about how
46 Southeast views this customary and traditional use
47 determination process and I think we do have kind of a
48 green light here from the Board to really make some
49 changes now that we have this understanding.

50

1 So at this point I don't really think
2 it would be the task of just the subcommittee to talk
3 about it. I think the subcommittee consisted of me,
4 Cathy, Ms. Needham, Patty Phillips, Bob Schroeder,
5 Frank Wright and myself, but I think it's now time for
6 the entire Council to start thinking about looking at
7 customary and traditional use determinations for their
8 particular communities and whether or not they think
9 that the decisions that were kind of made in the past
10 may have been sort of undertaken under maybe a
11 understanding that no longer is valid.

12
13 So I think it's kind of up to the
14 entire Council now to review customary and traditional
15 use determinations for any particular communities,
16 areas, and see if they want to make proposals to revise
17 those or come up with new ones. I think the feeling of
18 the Council as a whole as we went through this
19 discussion has been that a lot of those previous
20 determinations were somewhat restrictive as Mr.
21 Schroeder pointed out quite well in his question there.

22
23 I think this meeting, being a wildlife
24 meeting, would be a good time, if it's possible, I know
25 we got kind of scattered here by the weather, but would
26 have been a real good time to discuss the possibilities
27 of maybe putting in some new proposals to be analyzed
28 and see where it goes from there.

29
30 Maybe before this meeting is over maybe
31 the rest of the Council will have a chance to all
32 convene there in Craig and possibly have some
33 discussions and come up with some suggested proposals.
34 So that's my feeling at this point.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
37 Hernandez. Under new business tomorrow we'll have
38 another update regarding the call for Federal wildlife
39 proposals and it would be great if maybe Mr. Schroeder
40 and I can put our heads together since we're here with
41 Jennifer to find out if there's anything that we can do
42 before that timeframe to see if there's something we
43 could put forward to the whole workgroup so that when
44 you get here, Don -- because you're going to be here,
45 right? So that when you get here we can talk about it
46 as a workgroup of what proposals we can float to the
47 rest of the Council Members for that call for proposals
48 for wildlife.

49
50

1 Mr. Schroeder.

2

3 MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Madame
4 Chair. I intended to put my hand up, although I really
5 didn't yet. I'm wondering, will we have anyone from
6 the State Division of Wildlife Conservation here
7 tomorrow or someone who can speak to general population
8 issues?

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I believe Mr.
13 Ryan Scott will be in attendance tomorrow and he should
14 be able to refer us to any of his biologists that may
15 be here.

16

17 Are there any other questions, comments
18 or discussion items regarding customary and traditional
19 use from Council Members. Mr. Kitka.

20

21 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Madame Chair.
22 One of the things that we discovered over probably the
23 last five years when our -- we had subsistence for
24 goats that happened in Sitka. They're mainly set up
25 for the artists that were working on the roads and
26 things. At that time we didn't realize that according
27 to our traditions and our stories and the things that
28 were woven into the goat roads that goats have always
29 been present on Baranof Island.

30

31 It's very possible that at this point
32 we might like to set up a subsistence hunt for goats
33 where it isn't -- where they come and shut it down for
34 everybody else. Our subsistence people have not had a
35 chance to do a subsistence hunt for them. So somewhere
36 along the line we might want to set up a C&T for
37 subsistence on goats on Baranof Island.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
42 Kitka. Are there any other questions, comments or
43 discussion regarding C&T for Ms. Hardin.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Any Council
48 Member online that has comments or questions at this
49 time.

50

1 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, this is
2 Albert.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Please.

5
6 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 The question I have is I heard part of the report state
8 that this will be used to determine what subsistence
9 user has priority within the area and certain
10 boundaries. To me, State and Federal organizations are
11 supposed to give subsistence users priority no matter
12 who they are or where they're from. So, to me, this is
13 almost like it's set up to pit subsistence user against
14 subsistence user.

15
16 I mean living here in Angoon we're at
17 the point here that -- like I'll give you an example.
18 I've been teaching my son everything I've been reading
19 and preparing for this meeting so he's aware of his own
20 rights when I'm no longer around.

21
22 My concern with this whole customary
23 and traditional use determination dealing with the
24 State to protect the sockeye. The local IRA decided
25 not to give any information on any traditional use of
26 any resource because that eventually came back and was
27 used against us. I'll give you an example. The State
28 told us that we can only have 25 sockeye, so a resident
29 of Angoon will write down that they used only 25
30 sockeye and the State says, well, according to your own
31 writing this is all you used.

32
33 So I'm not sure if you get where I'm
34 coming from, but I don't know if you'll even get the
35 local IRA here on board with this customary and
36 traditional use determination. Presently they're not
37 giving anybody any information that will come back
38 later to be used to regulate us. That seems to be a
39 common practice.

40
41 So I don't know what the point of this
42 is. Is it going to pit subsistence user against
43 subsistence user? For an example, my neighbor may find
44 something that is valued to everyone to go get it, but
45 since he's already decided that it's his, that other
46 subsistence users, since he did it more than we have,
47 that just means he has priority over me, according to
48 what I just heard.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Ms. Hardin.

2
3 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 If I may, I'd like to clarify my comments. I'm sorry I
5 spoke about that very quickly. So let me just back up
6 and say again, customary and traditional use
7 determinations from the Board's perspective should be
8 broad and inclusive. But, again, we assess -- we make
9 these determinations based on proposals we receive.
10 The overall intent is to identify and acknowledge
11 customary and traditional uses. So the Board assumes
12 they're going to be broad.

13
14 In times if resources become limited or
15 there is increased competition amongst users and user
16 groups is what I really should be saying, user groups,
17 so if there is not enough of a resource to satisfy
18 opportunity for people hunting under State regulations
19 on Federal lands and people Federally qualified
20 subsistence users, that means rural residents with a
21 customary and traditional use determination, then the
22 Board is in a situation where it may have to restrict
23 opportunity to only Federally qualified subsistence
24 users on Federal public lands because subsistence has
25 the priority of Federal public lands. So that means
26 once that occurs only people who can hunt or fish under
27 Federal regulations would be allowed to do so on
28 Federal public lands.

29
30 If the resource is still limited and
31 there's not enough to go around, only in that case is
32 the Board sometimes asked to prioritize among Federally
33 qualified subsistence users. So if 15 communities have
34 been identified with a customary and traditional use
35 determination for a particular resource in a particular
36 area and there is not enough to provide opportunity for
37 all 15 communities or areas, the Board then sometimes
38 is asked to look at the criteria in Section 804 of
39 Title VIII and assess which of those communities have
40 the highest customary dependents.

41
42 The Board does not do that lightly.
43 The Board restricting uses is not something the Board
44 does easily or not something the Board wants to do.
45 Their intent is always to maximize opportunity but it's
46 a way to provide some opportunity when resources are
47 limited.

48
49 Does that help clarify?
50

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard, did
2 that help clarify for your comment?

3
4 MR. HOWARD: It kind of complicates it
5 a little more. I'll give you an example. If I go to
6 Sitka for herring and it turns out there's not enough
7 of a resource, I've spent almost \$2,000, money I really
8 don't want to spend going over to stay there and get --
9 hunting for the community of Angoon and you get there
10 and find out I can't do that, it just makes it
11 interesting.

12
13 Maybe you could fix the problems here
14 in addressing and supporting what the local government,
15 exactly the Sitka Tribe's trying to protect their own
16 resource, but it seems to me that can affect the
17 Angoon subsistence user. With all respect, we respect
18 their right to protect their own resource if that's
19 what they had asked us to do.

20
21 I'm just really concerned knowing that
22 whether I have a general agreement with the people in
23 Sitka and they're coming to the conclusion they want to
24 trade herring eggs with me and I'm coming home with
25 herring eggs whether I'm going to get a ticket from
26 somebody that doesn't recognize the fact that a friend
27 of mine wanted to trade. For example I have friends
28 over there that can't get what we (indiscernible)
29 because of the sea otter issue, so I'll trade them that
30 for herring eggs.

31
32 Some of these things we can use with
33 herring eggs on my boat and I wasn't supposed to fish
34 the fishery because somebody decided it was closed. I
35 mean that's one example.

36
37 The other example is hunting. I've
38 gone before where I couldn't get any deer in Angoon, so
39 I went to Hoonah and hunted with my family to get deer
40 for my brother's 40 day party. (Indiscernible)
41 subsistence user only and that puts me in another
42 situation. It seems like a lot of these create an
43 opportunity for someone to give us a fine when all
44 we're trying to do is what we've traditionally done for
45 years.

46
47 That's my concern.

48
49 Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Are
2 there any other questions for Ms. Hardin regarding
3 customary and traditional use.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.
8 Thank you very much.

9
10 Next I'd like to ask Ms. Susan Oehlers
11 up to talk about Western Hemisphere Shorebird Network
12 update.

13
14 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair. This is
15 Frank.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Wright.

18
19 MR. WRIGHT: Just a correction here.
20 When you guys put me on that (indiscernible) in
21 Yakutat, I don't think I was on that committee for
22 customary and traditional, so just a correction.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: It's on the
25 record that you're on the committee, so you will be.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'm kidding.
30 Thank you.

31
32 Ms. Oehlers.

33
34 MS. OEHLERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 Members of the Council. Again my name is Susan
36 Oehlers, wildlife biologist with the Forest Service in
37 Yakutat. Thank you for bearing with me. I know we're
38 getting late in the day. I just have some brief
39 updates.

40
41 This was a followup to your last
42 meeting when Council Member Sensmeier asked for a
43 letter of support for a nomination for Yakutat to be
44 included in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve
45 Network. We call that WHSRN for short. This was an
46 initiative that I have to admit my bias here that this
47 was brought initially to the community by the Forest
48 Service. From a regional level we do have a shorebird
49 site, a WHSRN site currently on the Chugach Forest in
50

1 Cordova and there was interest to add the Yakutat and
2 Stikine sites to this network.

3
4 Again, I want to state that this is
5 something that I've been involved in, but I will try
6 and give you as unbiased information as I can.

7
8 So the question that I'm trying to
9 address was whether there's community support for this.
10 So the Council not wanting to submit a letter of
11 support if it's not supported by the community.

12
13 Just a little background on that. As
14 we were trying to move forward in this process we did
15 share information with the community through a variety
16 of avenues including newspaper articles in our local
17 paper. We sent mailings to every box holder in Yakutat
18 just giving them information on the program asking for
19 their feedback. We had a couple of open houses and
20 some public presentations. Very minimal attendance at
21 those.

22
23 We did bring the idea to the City
24 Assembly and they were opposed to this. They drafted a
25 non-code ordinance basically opposing the nomination.
26 Following this they had a number of assembly meetings
27 asking for public comment. We did get a few people
28 that came in and also expressed their opposition to the
29 nomination.

30
31 I do want to back up. I forgot to say
32 that there is a little information in your packet on
33 Page 21 about the program. I do also have more
34 documents if anyone wants those. We didn't want to
35 overwhelm you with background on the program.

36
37 Anyway, back to the City Assembly.
38 Basically the main concern for this nomination was that
39 although the nomination and the program itself is
40 through a nonprofit and there is absolutely no
41 regulatory authority, there would be no legal
42 restrictions or consequences of this inclusion in the
43 network, there was concern that just by having that
44 designation as an important shorebird site that it
45 could lead to restrictions on traditional uses down the
46 road. That it could be used to add some legal
47 restrictions.

48
49 So that was the main opposition, that
50

1 people just didn't want to take the risk that there
2 could be additional restrictions as a result of this
3 designation.

4
5 That's kind of the background on it. I
6 know there are some individuals that support it, but
7 the City Assembly opposing it and some people speaking
8 out against it. At this time, as the Forest Service,
9 we're not going to pursue this. It is a program that's
10 based on community support. It's not something that we
11 or the program wants to impose on a community. We want
12 it to come from the community.

13
14 So at this time we are not pursuing it.
15 However, the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe does support it and
16 that's why Council Sensmeier asking for a letter of
17 support. So that's where I leave it. The tribe may
18 continue to pursue it and try and build that community
19 support and I hope they do, but that's the background
20 as far as whether or not you would want to submit a
21 letter of support.

22
23 I'm open to questions.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

26
27 Mr. Schroeder.

28
29 MR. SCHROEDER: Just a quick question
30 through the Chair. Ms. Oehlers. I'm looking at the
31 handout you gave us. How many shorebirds do we get in
32 Yakutat? Because they're different levels of
33 importance on the sheet here.

34
35 MS. OEHLERS: Yeah, that's a good
36 question. There's been documented over 300,000
37 individuals and that's what qualifies us for the
38 program.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any
41 other questions for Ms. Oehlers.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Any Council
46 Member on the telephone that has a question for Ms.
47 Oehlers.

48
49 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, Madame Chair, I
50

1 have one question. This is Don Hernandez.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Please, Mr.
4 Hernandez.

5

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: Susan, would you say
7 that the focus of this effort is more on protecting
8 habitat or actions that might protect individual
9 populations?

10

11 MS. OEHLERS: Through the Chair. Mr.
12 Hernandez. Yeah, that's a really good question. You
13 know, I would say it's both and one of the things about
14 this program the reason we would qualify for it is
15 because it's not that the birds are nesting there by
16 and large, it's that they're just traveling through
17 during their spring and fall migration, so it's a
18 stopover site where they're stopping to feed and fuel
19 on their way through as they're migrating.

20

21 So it's protecting the habitat that
22 they're using just during brief periods of time in the
23 spring and fall and then, you know, just kind of being
24 aware of possible issues that they could encounter
25 during those times, like disturbance. But then it's
26 also just being part of this overall network. It's all
27 the various sites that are kind of working together
28 towards overall conservation throughout the range.

29

30 So not just Yakutat. I would say that
31 right now it's not that there's issues necessarily with
32 shorebirds in Yakutat, but we're just trying to kind of
33 more keep it that way and add awareness.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Hernandez,
36 did you have any other questions.

37

38 MR. HERNANDEZ: No, that's it, Cathy.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: So, Ms. Oehlers,
43 my understanding is that this program isn't going to go
44 forward and Mr. Sensmeier's request to this Council was
45 to write a letter of support for the program, correct?

46

47 MS. OEHLERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 Well, so what we were trying to do was to submit a
49 nomination to be included in the network. At this

50

1 point, as the Forest Service, we are not
2 pursuing that. I can't speak for the tribe. They
3 could pursue it if they want to. But, again, the
4 program itself is based on community support, so
5 without that support it's probably unlikely to move
6 forward.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: So for out
9 Council with this particular agenda item as being old
10 business, it seems like with Mr. Sensmeier not being
11 here to let us know whether or not the tribe is going
12 to pursue this that it's not something that we can
13 follow up on in terms of making a decision about the
14 letter of support at this time, correct? Is that the
15 will of the Council?

16
17 (Council nods affirmatively)

18
19 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.
20 Thank you.

21
22 Ms. Oehlers.

23
24 MS. OEHLERS: Just to clarify. There's
25 no deadline. This is an open program. So perhaps at
26 the next Council meeting he could address it further as
27 far as the tribe's intentions.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you for
30 providing that report and follow up.

31
32 Mr. Kitka.

33
34 MR. KITKA: Yes. It might be good to
35 have letters from the tribe or the people that are
36 against it so that we could look at this also. If we
37 bring it up, we want to know who's against it and who's
38 for it. These things are important to us.

39
40 MS. OEHLERS: Okay. Thank you. We do
41 have copies of those that we can share with you.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.
44 Thank you. We are now at that point in the day and
45 that point in our agenda that we're using as a
46 guideline that we really are dependent upon other
47 people to be here that are not here yet. So if it's
48 okay with the Council I would like to recess for the
49 day and reconvene at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

50

1 Are there any objections.

2
3 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair. This is
4 Albert.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'm sorry?

7
8 MR. HOWARD: This is Albert.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'm sorry, I
11 didn't catch that, Mr. Howard.

12
13 MR. HOWARD: I'm concerned with the
14 fact that Mr. Sensmeier isn't there to speak on what we
15 were just talking about. My concern is that it seems
16 to me the city and borough of Yakutat has more say
17 than the local IRA according to whether or not they're
18 going to support this. I don't know if they received
19 the same thing, but we're supposed to work together and
20 it doesn't appear as though that's happening here.

21
22 I think the tribe should be recognized
23 as community support. If they do have documentation,
24 that should have been brought forward as part of this
25 report for us to review. This appears to be giving us
26 one side of the report and not both sides. They have
27 their own reasons for wanting it and not wanting it. I
28 think to make an informed decision from this day
29 forward all information from both sides should always
30 be available.

31
32 Thanks, Madame Chair.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
35 Howard. I think at this point, however, until a
36 nomination is going to be put forward we can't write a
37 letter of support until there's a nomination to either
38 support or not support. We really need Mr. Sensmeier,
39 our Council Member who has brought that before us, at
40 our proceedings to let us know if the tribe intends to
41 move forward with the nomination.

42
43 Unfortunately Mr. Sensmeier won't be at
44 this meeting. So at this point there isn't anything
45 more that we can do as a Regional Advisory Council
46 until we get feedback from either him or the tribe.

47
48 Mr. Kitka.

49
50

1 MR. KITKA: I see we have somebody else
2 from the Native community here, one of the leaders. I
3 just wondered if you'd recognize her.

4
5 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Here today?
6 Thank you, Mr. Kitka. I see her as such a familiar
7 face all the time I just assume she's been with us the
8 whole day today. I'd just like to briefly recognize
9 Ms. Millie Stevens who's in the room.

10
11 If you could come forward and just give
12 a brief introduction of what your role in the community
13 of Craig is. Just come up to the table, state your
14 name and say who you are and who you represent.

15
16 MS. STEVENS: Good afternoon, everyone.
17 Actually I was just here to kind of snoop around
18 because I was on the original Federal Subsistence Board
19 when your dad was on the Subsistence Board. My Uncle
20 Bill Thomas was the Chair, so I was just checking to
21 see if there's still some old dogs around.....

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MS. STEVENS:that I could say hi
26 to. But first and foremost I'd like to welcome you to
27 our beautiful community Craig on Prince of Wales
28 Island. I hope that you have time to get out and check
29 out our community or our island. I'm supposed to be
30 retired, but I'm not ready to be retired. I just
31 wanted to come by before my 5:00 o'clock meeting just
32 to -- well, actually I hadn't planned on saying hi to
33 everyone.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MS. STEVENS: But beings how I'm here,
38 hi, everyone, and I hope you enjoy your stay.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you,
43 Millie. Can you hit the button on the microphone,
44 please.

45
46 Thank you, Millie, for entertaining us.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'd like to
2 recess the meeting today and reconvene at 9:00 a.m.
3 tomorrow.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 (Off record)

8
9 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered ____ through
____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 14th day
of March in Craig, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and
correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 22nd
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Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18